



# Off Menu – Ep 215 – Paul Rudd

## Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the back bacon of humour, frying it in the pan of the internet using the oil of friendship and then cutting off the rind of bad times and throwing it in the bin of the bin.

## James Acaster

I guess we're cooking back bacon.

## Ed Gamble

We're cooking back bacon and sometimes you've got to cut that rind off, James.

## James Acaster

You've got to cut off the rind and try and be kind.

## Ed Gamble

It's the last episode of series ten.

## James Acaster

Woah. Time flies when you're doing a podcast. That's Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster. We own a dream restaurant together and every 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 today our guest is Paul Rudd.

## Ed Gamble

I've gotten mildly distracted by, you said, 'di-day.'

## James Acaster

'Di-day.'

## Ed Gamble

It sounded like you said, 'di-day' instead of 'today'. Normally I'd join in with the name of the guest and I would have loved to have joined in with that one, because it's a very exciting guest, James.

## James Acaster

It's Paul Rudd.

## Ed Gamble

It's Paul Rudd.

## James Acaster

But I went, 'di-day'.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes. 'And di-day our guest is Paul Ruddudud.''

**James Acaster**

Ruddudududda. Paul Ruddudududda is here.

**Ed Gamble**

Paul. Global treas'.

**James Acaster**

Global treasure, Paul Rudd. I mean, you know, we can't even begin to list all the things that he's done over the years that have captured everyone's hearts.

**Ed Gamble**

I wouldn't dare.

**James Acaster**

Everyone loves Paul Rudd and, you know, we're very excited to have him in the dream restaurant as well, because for a long time on this podcast there's been an ongoing, I would say a mystery about Paul.

**Ed Gamble**

A long, long time. It started with the Aisling Bea episode, which was a very early episode of this podcast.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Talking series one.

**Ed Gamble**

Where Aisling had worked with Paul on a TV show and said that he does not like sauce.

**James Acaster**

Doesn't like any condiments of any sort. Then it would come up every now and again with people on the pod.

**Ed Gamble**

If someone mentioned anyone who doesn't like sauce or condiments.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

One of us would go, 'Like Paul Rudd.'



**James Acaster**

'Paul Rudd doesn't like sauce.' Then Asma Khan of Darjeeling Express came on and said, 'Hey, Paul Rudd came in and he likes sauce.'

**Ed Gamble**

'He likes sauce.' And then we find ourselves in a situation where James is currently working with Paul Rudd.

**James Acaster**

Yes, as we speak.

**Ed Gamble**

James deliberately got himself a job working with Paul Rudd.

**James Acaster**

Had to.

**Ed Gamble**

So we could find out if Paul Rudd likes sauce.

**James Acaster**

Had to for the pod, man. Had to get myself in there. I'm not going to tell you what lengths I had to go to in order to get on this project. I had to sabotage a lot of other people's careers.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

In order to get my foot in the door. But it worked, I was able to ask Paul over a series of, like, I've met him a few times now.

**Ed Gamble**

ABBA voyage, you met him at ABBA Voyage.

**James Acaster**

We went to see ABBA Voyage together.

**Ed Gamble**

Screaming, 'Do you like sauce?' over the top of Waterloo.

**James Acaster**

Yes. But over time, I've managed to get Paul to agree to come on the pod, and we're going to find out, hopefully, once and for all. Does Paul like-



**Ed Gamble**

Is he saucy or is he not-ty?

**James Acaster**

'Is he saucy? Or is he not-ty?' Yes, I guess that is the question.

**Ed Gamble**

I won't ask it exactly like that.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

On the episode.

**James Acaster**

I hope not.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm looking forward to meeting him though.

**James Acaster**

I told him this podcast was good.

**Ed Gamble**

Why the fuck did you do that?

**James Acaster**

What? I thought we'd pull it off.

**Ed Gamble**

That's not what you do. That's not what you do when you book people. You go, 'It's a piece of shit, but do you mind coming in?'

**James Acaster**

I told him it was good.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I told him it's a good podcast, but if you say, 'Saucy or not-ty,' he'll walk out the door.



**Ed Gamble**

Is it shitty or is it not-ty?

**James Acaster**

Jesus. But listen, even though we're very excited to have Paul Rudd on the podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

Shall we plug some of Paul's projects?

**James Acaster**

However, Ed, as always on the Off Menu podcast, there's a secret ingredient.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't tell me we're doing this to Paul Rudd, James.

**James Acaster**

It's a secret ingredient that we deem unacceptable and if the guest says it they get kicked out the dream restaurant. And I am sad to say that we are having this rule even with Paul. Even though I'd have to see Paul later on this week at work.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Kick him out the dream restaurant and then walk in and be like, 'Hey buddy,' as if I didn't spit in his face the other day.

**Ed Gamble**

It better not happen before we find out if he's saucy or not-ty.

**James Acaster**

That would be awful. This week, the secret ingredient is ants.

**Ed Gamble**

Ants. Come on.

**James Acaster**

Was it not going to be ants?

**Ed Gamble**

Come on.



**James Acaster**

And look, we can't remember if we've had ants as a secret ingredient before. Benito searched it in the Off Menu database, but that's messed up in the past.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You know? But still.

**Ed Gamble**

We've eaten ants before, together.

**James Acaster**

You and I ate ants in a test kitchen.

**Ed Gamble**

In a test kitchen, in a tense kitchen.

**James Acaster**

I guess that's why we haven't put ants on it before.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It's because we enjoyed those ants that we had in the test kitchen.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, they were nice. But now we've got to, we've got fucking Ant Man in the studio.

**James Acaster**

Ant Man is here.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Ant Man can't eat ants, that would be awful. They're his friends, he can talk to them.

**Ed Gamble**

But what about when he's big?



**James Acaster**

No, but even then, it's like, morally that's messed up. He talks to them, Anthony is his favourite ant who dies in the first one. Spoilers.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but I think he eats Anthony.

**James Acaster**

What?

**Ed Gamble**

At the end.

**James Acaster**

No he doesn't. That's not.

**Ed Gamble**

Maybe I'm thinking of a different film.

**James Acaster**

Is this post-credits?

**Ed Gamble**

Different film.

**James Acaster**

Post-credit scene?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, post-credits, yes.

**James Acaster**

Well, listen.

**Ed Gamble**

It's Brett Goldstein who plays Anthony.

**James Acaster**

He's like, 'Yes, father,' and gets eaten. Spoilers there.

**Ed Gamble**

Very excited to have Paul Rudd in-,



**James Acaster**

Roy Ant.

**Ed Gamble**

I can't wait to speak to Paul Rudd while we're on this sort of form. We should say, before you listen to the episode, this was recorded before the strikes.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Paul Rudd ain't crossing no picket lines.

**Ed Gamble**

No way, this was recorded way before the strikes.

**James Acaster**

Way before.

**Ed Gamble**

This is the Off Menu menu of Paul Rudd.

**James Acaster**

Paul Rudd.

**Ed Gamble**

Welcome, Paul, to the Dream Restaurant.

**Paul Rudd**

Thanks. It's great to be here.

**James Acaster**

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

**Paul Rudd**

I'm really thrilled, it's an honour to be here. It's great to be sitting at this table with you. Without headphones, I might add.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

It's a rare thing.



**Ed Gamble**

This is the Dream Restaurant, you know. There's no headphones in dreams.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

It's a peak behind the curtain for the listener. This is the first they've heard that we don't wear headphones.

**Paul Rudd**

I know. By the way, I knew it when I said it and I always think that's fun, to listen to something and learn a little bit about, you know, how the sausage is made.

**James Acaster**

Yes. So, we never have headphones.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Which is why, well, why you never hear us respond to each other.

**Ed Gamble**

And we're in different rooms.

**Paul Rudd**

Let me ask you this.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Do I take the jacket off? Because, like, that sounds like a lot, that sounds noisy to me. Ben over here, see, Ben has headphones.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, Ben's got the headphones.

**James Acaster**

Ben's instantly- But, I mean, it looks like a nice jacket.



**Paul Rudd**

It's not.

**James Acaster**

It's warm.

**Paul Rudd**

No, it's fine. It's like, you could buy it in, like, a deli.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

That's how good that jacket is.

**James Acaster**

Deli jacket.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you ever bought, like, a t-shirt from a deli when you eat somewhere and you're like, 'I like that so much I'm going to buy the merch'?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I went to, actually, just a couple of days ago, I pass, and this is, I mean, it's got to be a put-on. There's a noodle bar, and you've seen it here, I could probably, I guess I can say.

**Ed Gamble**

Please.

**Paul Rudd**

It's Phat Phuc Noodle Bar.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What?



**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I don't know about that.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, really. So, I thought, 'Well, okay, if it's intentional, it's funny.'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

'If it's not intentional, it's the greatest place, restaurant, I've ever seen.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

But I did pop my head in there to think, 'Do you get a t-shirt?'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Only because I knew that my son had seen that and he said, 'Oh man, I got to get a shirt of that,' he goes. I didn't eat there, but I thought, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes. But there weren't. If there were t-shirts, you'd go, 'It's intentional, for sure.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

But now there's not t-shirts, you don't know.

**Paul Rudd**

That's. And by the way, yes, they scored points with me for not having any merch for sale.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Paul Rudd**

And that made me think, 'Maybe it really is a,' you know?

**James Acaster**

How's it spelled?

**Paul Rudd**

P-h-u-c.

**Ed Gamble**

I think I know the place. Is it, like, it's in, like, west London? Is it, like, Chelsea sort of way?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Exactly, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

I know the place. They've got, like, a mural on the side of the building, haven't they? That says, 'Phat Phuc Noodle Bar.'

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, I think they know.

**Paul Rudd**

Well, they didn't at first, they do now.

**Ed Gamble**

I reckon one day of being open, someone stuck their head round the door and went-,

**Paul Rudd**

'You guys know what your place is, right?' I've always loved, you know, stores and restaurants, anything that has a really cute name.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Like, a really clever, you know, like, a salon called the 'The Hairem.' H-a-i-r-e-m. I have a buddy of mine and we always take pictures, and have for years, sometimes we won't even talk but, you know, a picture will show up and it will just be a cute name of a store that's, I mean, you know, hateable. I tend to not like, I would never wear the noodle bar shirt. I don't like profanity on t-shirts. I don't think it's clever and, you know, it's like, I really have an aversion to it.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Like, in New York, I live in New York and there's, you know, there are t-shirts, like, you walk down the streets and it's just in some store and it just says, 'Fuck you, you fucking fuck' on a shirt and I'm like, 'Who buys that?' 'And who would wear?' Yes. I feel bad enough even saying it on the podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What about, if this episode goes out, Phat Phuc Noodle Bar hears it and goes, 'We should do t-shirts. That would be great,' and then they bring out t-shirts that say, 'Phat Phuc Noodle Bar' with your face on it, because you spoke about it on the podcast?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

What would you do? Would you-

**Ed Gamble**

Well, on the t-shirt, it's you but you're wearing a t-shirt that says, 'Fuck you, you fucking fuck,' on it.

**James Acaster**

Yes, there's that as well.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Different layers.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. 'Fuck you, you fucking fuck, Phat Phuc Noodle Bar.' If they did that, I could never get litigious. That's just too good. I'd be honoured.

**James Acaster**

You'd have to live with it.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

They don't even need 'Noodle Bar', just have 'Phat Phuc'.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And just your face with two thumbs up.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

That would be it.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you think anyone has ever sued someone and asked for, like, a box of the t-shirts as well?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, and that's what I'm suing for.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**Paul Rudd**

No, yes, I just want a box of t-shirts.

**James Acaster**

Don't want them in stock. We're very excited to have you on the podcast, because there's a long-running thing on the podcast that we need to settle with you.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Are we getting this out the way early doors? Yes.

**James Acaster**

I think if we don't get it out the way early doors, everyone's just going to, they won't be able to think of anything else.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

The listeners probably don't even remember us talking about Phat Phuc Noodle Bar, because all they've been thinking about is whether or not Paul likes sauce.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. I love that I'm here, and we're going to get to the bottom of this.

**James Acaster**

Yes. So, for anyone who hasn't heard the previous episodes, Aisling Bea who was in a series with Paul, she said, during that filming, Paul refused any condiment. He would not have any sauce, any condiments.

**Ed Gamble**

Anything wet.

**James Acaster**

At all. Anything wet. He only likes dry food. It got brought up a few times in a few episodes as a joke, and then as Asma Khan came on the podcast, who, Paul has been to Asma's restaurant, and we said, 'Did Paul have sauce when he was there or was it all dry food?' She said, 'No, he had loads of sauce. He loves sauce.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

So, we don't know.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Everyone's confused about it.

**Paul Rudd**

It's a real mystery here.

**James Acaster**

And this is the only person who can give us the answers.

**Ed Gamble**

This is basically a true crime podcast now.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Right.

**James Acaster**

We finally got the guy.

**Paul Rudd**

Let's get to the bottom of this.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I'm putting all my cards on the table.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I like sauce. I think sauces are great. You know, I find of grew up in Kansas City from the age of ten to twenty. And Kansas City is a huge barbecue place and so, barbecue sauce that people put on everything, I like it. I like hot sauce. I like, I mean, I like lots of sauces, but I loathe ketchup and mustard.



**Ed Gamble**

Right.

**Paul Rudd**

And, by the way.

**Ed Gamble**

This is where it's come from.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. I don't like ketchup and mustard, and mayonnaise, I just don't know what that is. So, I avoid it. But, see, this is where it gets a little weird. I don't want to have a sandwich and put mayonnaise on it.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

But coleslaw, which is made with Mayo, I'll eat it.

**James Acaster**

Right, yes.

**Paul Rudd**

So, I don't know.

**James Acaster**

Mayonnaise is the grey area.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Mayonnaise is really, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

It is, and by the way, I've seen some mayonnaise that is grey and that's why I'm just not going to.

**James Acaster**

You won't go anywhere near it.



**Paul Rudd**

No. It's so, even the idea that I find repugnant.

**Ed Gamble**

But you have coleslaw, so it's almost as if you don't trust yourself with how much mayonnaise you're supposed to put on.

**Paul Rudd**

Good point. Yes. There are certain things that I think, 'I'm going to force myself to eat this and like it.' When I was little, I think I liked three things. Four things, maybe. It was always embarrassing to go to somebody's house to go to a restaurant and somebody would serve something and I just, 'Oh no.' I would avoid going to people's houses for dinner.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

You know, like, I was like, 'I can't deal, because they're going to serve something I'm not going to like.'

**James Acaster**

Was this when you were little, you said?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

How old is little?

**Paul Rudd**

Like, 32. I'd say, probably, like, six, seven years old.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

It's kind of amazing to be, obviously, like, children don't like certain foods and, like, say, 'I don't like these things,' but also to have that self awareness of, like, 'I can't go over to someone's house, I'm going to ruin the dinner.'

**Paul Rudd**

I still have, like, these traumatic memories. I went to a McDonald's or something with a friend of mine, and his dad said, 'What do you want?' And I said, 'A hamburger.' And my mum always ordered hamburgers for me and they would always just, she would order them plain. And so I got a hamburger and it had ketchup and mustard and pickles on it, and I'm like, 'I don't like this.' And he said, 'Well,



you've got to eat it.' I said, 'Can I get a different one? Because I don't like the stuff on it.' And he's like, 'No, you've got to eat. That's what you wanted, that's what I ordered, that's what you're going to eat.' This is, by the way, this was, like, my friend's dad.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Now, like, 'What a jerk.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, awful.

**Paul Rudd**

And I don't know, was he trying to teach me something, what did he think I'm his son? So, I had to, I remember eating this burger, kind of crying, like Coco from Fame when she's covering her, takes her shirt off. And I'm eating this burger that I hate. And then I remember I would sometimes go over to his house and I'd say, 'My mum said I didn't have to eat anything I don't want to eat.' If I go have dinner or something.

**Ed Gamble**

So he knew.

**Paul Rudd**

It was really traumatic.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Awful, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Can see why you don't like ketchup now.

**Paul Rudd**

Well, I don't think that caused it, but it just never even occurred to me, I think, as a really little kid who loved and loves French fries or chips as you say.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

To put anything with it, because they're so perfect on their own.



**James Acaster**

Sure. So, that cemented it, by the sound of things. That event.

**Paul Rudd**

That was-

**James Acaster**

But before that, you didn't like ketchup and mustard?

**Paul Rudd**

No. No, and mustard, you know, I think it would, like, if it got on your finger or the smell never goes away and I just think of a hot day and mustard on my shirt, because I think I went to a football match and somebody spilled, like, accidentally got mustard on my shirt.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

It was hot and like, 'This sucks. I want to go home. I've got to take this off.' And, like, I had a real, kind of, visceral reaction to it.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I went to college with a guy who had such an aversion. His name was Walt Niedner. That's his real name. And he hated the idea of ketchup and mustard mixed together on a plate. And we would sit around and say, 'Boy, imagine, like, if you just squirt out some ketchup and, you know, it makes that sound and it's on, like, a paper plate and you're outside at, like, a picnic, and then some mustard,' and he would just say, 'Stop.' We could always make him throw up.

**Ed Gamble**

Just by imagining it?

**Paul Rudd**

Just by imagining it. So, it became, I mean, we were vicious, the group, you know, all the time, just start talking about. And then it got to the point where it's like, 'So, you have a paper plate.' You didn't even have to say, like, he would then think about it and throw up.

**James Acaster**

For the word paper plate.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

Because, obviously, where I thought that was going was, you were going to say you literally did it in front of him or you would get ketchup and mustard, but all you need ed to do to make Niedner puke-

**Paul Rudd**

No, just talk about it. His imagination did the rest. He hated it. I think he had the similar thing, like, at summer camp or something where it's like, something just grossed him out about it and so. But I get it, I feel the same way.

**James Acaster**

Sounds like Niedner got it worse than you. Like, when he was a kid.

**Paul Rudd**

No, Niedner definitely had it worse than me.

**James Acaster**

Something happened.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, I understand the mustard on your finger, mustard on your shirt stinks forever.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Especially on a sunny day. What was ketchup?

**Paul Rudd**

Ketchup just seems just, like, sugary and tangy and nasty to me.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Like, I like a burger and I'll put, like, a cheeseburger or something but I don't want ketchup on it.

**James Acaster**

You want it just as is.



**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Well, I mean, still, it's like, sometimes a burger will show up and then it's like, 'Got to look under the bun, what's on this thing,' and it'll be like. And the worst is when it's, like, a pinkish-orange, I think, 'That's a thousand island something or other.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

It's like a mix of mayonnaise and ketchup.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Some other nonsense I don't want. I have to try and scrape it off, and power through.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that's a nightmare, thousand island.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, for someone who doesn't like the sauce.

**Paul Rudd**

What is that? Do you?

**James Acaster**

No, I have no idea.

**Ed Gamble**

I think we've had this discussion on the podcast before and no one knows.

**James Acaster**

Yes, we tried to get to the bottom and no one knows.

**Ed Gamble**

No one knows what it is.



**James Acaster**

Ed would always try to get to the bottom of it, no one knows what it is.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. I think it might, it must be like ketchup and Mayo mixed, right? With a bit of spice in there maybe.

**James Acaster**

There's definitely those two things in there.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. Maybe some Tabasco or something, yes.

**James Acaster**

I think maybe there's some Tabasco in there.

**Paul Rudd**

Alright.

**James Acaster**

Beyond that, I have no idea.

**Paul Rudd**

I can honestly say, I don't even know what it tastes like. I've never had it.

**James Acaster**

Yes, because you always scrape it off.

**Ed Gamble**

I don't think you should have it.

**Paul Rudd**

I'm not going to start now.

**Ed Gamble**

How did Walt Niedner feel about thousand island?

**Paul Rudd**

I never even asked.

**James Acaster**

On a paper plate.

**Paul Rudd**

I don't know, yes. I mean, I imagine if I'd asked, but he'd puke before I even got the question out.



**James Acaster**

That would be it. If you want to, like, because I don't know why Aisling was so convinced that you-

**Ed Gamble**

Spreading-

**Paul Rudd**

No, she was, by the way, because she's not totally wrong.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

In that, again, it took me a while and then to, kind of, come around because I did like things really dry.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I would say it wasn't even until, I loved salad, like, I've always loved vegetables and salads, but I never even put salad dressing on a salad.

**Ed Gamble**

Wow.

**Paul Rudd**

That's even weirder, by the way.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

And then it wasn't until, I think I was in high school or something, 'Alright, I'll try it,' and it's like, 'Alright, I can deal with this.'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

But the idea of just dressing and sauces, for the, you know, first part of my life, it was, yes, I kind of avoided it. But now, yes, hot sauce, anything at Asma's restaurant was delicious and, you know? I'll eat anything now.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

As long as it isn't ketchup, mustard and.

**James Acaster**

What if it was for a scene? What if you were acting in something? Let's say they were doing a remake of 'Dumb and Dumber' and you were playing Lloyd.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And there's the scene where they have the hot chilli peppers.

**Paul Rudd**

Sure. Classic scene.

**James Acaster**

And they discover that squirting the ketchup and mustard onto their tongues.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, and right into his mouth.

**Ed Gamble**

Both into his mouth, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes. What if you had to do that scene from 'Dumb and Dumber'?

**Ed Gamble**

And how do you feel about being cast as Lloyd immediately with no hesitation?

**James Acaster**

Well, it's either Lloyd or Harry with the ketchup on the tongue, and one of them has got fair hair, one of them has got darker hair.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, exactly.

**James Acaster**

So, that's what happened to you there.



**Paul Rudd**

Yes. It's my chipped tooth.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Well, here's the thing, I'm a professional.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I would do what I have to do for the work, for the art.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

But I would dread that day. It's like, 'Oh God, that scene is coming up next week.' And I might talk to the prop department or whoever is, you know, handles that stuff. Like, 'Does, like, hot sauce work? Will it look like ketchup?'

**Ed Gamble**

You could do it with almost, like, a raspberry coolie or something. Couldn't you?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Mango coolie.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Raspberry coolie.



**Paul Rudd**

Yes, I mean, I'd probably prefer that.

**Ed Gamble**

No way Carrey-

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, you know what, that's what I would do, I think.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you think Carrey was using the real stuff?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

That guy doesn't-

**Paul Rudd**

I also think that you can, you can tell.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Like, you can tell that that was real ketchup and mustard.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I don't think there's an-, You've got to do it. I guess you've just got to do it.

**Ed Gamble**

I've just done a photo shoot for me tour, my next door, and I'm eating a hot dog in it and I'm covered in ketchup and mustard.



**Paul Rudd**

Oh my God.

**Ed Gamble**

And it stank all day.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. You can't get it off you.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you can smell it now, I guess. Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You smelt it. You can be honest. You smelt it.

**Paul Rudd**

I had a job once where I used to glaze hams. That was a real job. And I would work with ham all day.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I had to unload a truck in the morning and then I had to, kind of, slice the fat off of it and put it in a slicer and then glaze it. And I smelled like ham for four months, until I quit that job.

**James Acaster**

Yes. So you were little ham boy.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Were you going to auditions during that time as well, smelling like ham?

**Paul Rudd**

No. I was trying to make money because I knew I was going to move to go to an acting school.

**James Acaster**

Right.



**Paul Rudd**

So, I had to try and save up.

**James Acaster**

And by the time you got to acting school, you didn't smell of ham anymore? You had another period in between?

**Paul Rudd**

About two months, yes, the first two months of acting school, it took a while to completely wash off.

**Ed Gamble**

It's good to stand out in auditions though, right?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You've got to stick in their mind.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. It's like.

**James Acaster**

'Who was the guy who stunk of ham?'

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Stank.

**Paul Rudd**

There's a friend of mine who used to call me 'Paul Ham Glazer', because I think there was, like, from 'Starsky and Hutch', there was an actor named Paul Michael Glazer. So, my friend Dave would always say, 'Hey, it's Paul Ham Glazer'.

**James Acaster**

One more question before we get into the menu proper. Bob Mortimer has been on this podcast and told a story that him and his son go to the cinema, they always get a hot dog and they'll put the ketchup and mustard on the hot dog. And his son, who was a grown adult, allows Bob to mix the ketchup and mustard together on his hot dog with his finger. He swirls through his son's, on the top of the sausage, and will just, like, swirl his finger round and then he goes, 'It's great to be alive, son,' and then licks his finger at the end. How would you and, more importantly, Walt Niedner feel about that?



**Paul Rudd**

Walt Niedner would go to a movie with him once.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Actually, yes, that's horrible. He would touch his son's hot dog?

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

So, he does his-

**Paul Rudd**

By the way, which out of context is a very strange sentence to utter. Yes, that's gross.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

That's so, it's, yuck.

**Ed Gamble**

But it's his son, you know?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, still.

**Ed Gamble**

Same fingers, basically.

**Paul Rudd**

But they haven't touched the same stuff that day.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's true.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Paul Rudd**

And you're also going into a movie theatre, so God knows what has been, you know? What's on those armrests and in those, like.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Also, any cinema hot dog is, that's gross anyway, because it's been on the hot rollers.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. I think, also, we're burying the lead here.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Who goes to the cinema and eats a hot dog?

**James Acaster**

It was his dream starter.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

For his menu.

**Paul Rudd**

Oh, it's his dream starter?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Odeon Cinema hot dog.

**Paul Rudd**

Wow. Well, that's, I understand the nostalgia if that's, you know?

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Paul Rudd**

I get that, but wow. There is, I mean, look. A hot dog on a grill at a barbecue or cook-out or something is fantastic. Going to a sport, like, a baseball game or something, I love hot dogs. But I don't put anything on them.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, you're having that dry, right?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. I mean, I could deal with relish and sauerkraut.

**James Acaster**

Onions?

**Paul Rudd**

Onions I love, yes. Just anything else.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Couldn't do it.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Although some people get chilli dogs.

**James Acaster**

Oh, yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I don't do that.

**James Acaster**

That is, like, the wettest of the wet.

**Paul Rudd**

Well, it just, that looks disgusting. That really looks gross.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Also, it's like, choose one. Have some chilli or have a hot dog. But, like, it just seems like it's going to be a mess.

**James Acaster**

Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

It's fantastic.

**Paul Rudd**

It's good, right?

**Ed Gamble**

I love it.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

There's a place in Washington DC that does amazing chilli dogs and I went, I ordered two, ate them, and then ordered two more.

**James Acaster**

What's it called?

**Ed Gamble**

Ben's Chili Bowl, I think.

**James Acaster**

Ben's Chili Bowl.

**Ed Gamble**

Obama's been there, there's a picture of him on the wall.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Good on him.

**Paul Rudd**

You know, to be fair, I do like both of those things. I'm sure if I ate one, I could deal.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**Paul Rudd**

But it just seems like a disaster waiting to happen in so many ways.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Very messy.

**Ed Gamble**

It's not walking food.

**Paul Rudd**

No. It's not really, is it.

**Ed Gamble**

You've got to sit down, yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. You can't eat it on the run.

**James Acaster**

Do you think Bob would swirl the chilli with his finger for his son?

**Paul Rudd**

Oh God.

**James Acaster**

Put it all in there.

**Paul Rudd**

'It's good to be alive, son.'

**James Acaster**

We always start the dream meal with still or sparkling water.

**Paul Rudd**

Still. I'm going still.

**James Acaster**

Take a sip right now.

**Ed Gamble**

There you go. To prove it.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. That's why. It's perfect, you don't need to mess with perfection.



**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I like sparkling water. When I was having to train for the Ant Man movie and I was on a very restrictive diet, my reward was sparkling water.

**James Acaster**

Imagine.

**Paul Rudd**

That's how horrible that diet was. It was like, 'Alright, I'm going to have some sparkling water now. I've earned it.' And, you know, trained, work out. So, I was having a lot of sparkling water. And I think, you know, they're not all created equally.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Or equal. Pellegrino is great.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I would choose that over a Perrier or something.

**James Acaster**

Straight away? Straight to the Pellegrino?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

That was a cheat day.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, my cheat day, yes. Perrier on the cheat day. It was a softer carbonation.

**James Acaster**

I guess because you were really little for that role, that was less scary if there's less bubbles.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Exactly, yes.



**Ed Gamble**

That's a very restricted diet if you've got to get down to that size.

**Paul Rudd**

It's really, I mean, too much carbonation, I would have exploded at that size. One bubble would take me out.

**James Acaster**

Did it feel like a treat? Like, genuinely, in your head, was it a treat?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

It was great. It wasn't flavoured, I wasn't going to go crazy.

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, it was a treat.

**James Acaster**

And did you have to do that for every Ant Man movie? Or just the first one?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, I kind of did it for all of them. Yes.

**James Acaster**

So, did it get easier each time?

**Paul Rudd**

Once you're in it, it's actually not too hard and I think you guys can guess that I'm okay with having really boring food every time.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Over and over again, because I would eat, kind of, very similar things. But it wasn't too hard. And then, you know, like, you get into and get into the groove of it. You feel good waking up with tonnes of energy.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

It's the strangest sensation. That was new for me.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

When you do something like an 'End Game' or an 'Infinity War', is there, everyone's on that? Everyone's got to be on, like, strict diets and doing them. Do you compare notes?

**Paul Rudd**

I don't know. I mean, I think people, kind of, are. But I would also, I think I worked out harder than everyone, I would eat better than everyone, and I'd look worse than all of them. I'd say, I'm like, 'I have to work out all the time, eat perfectly, just to look kind of bad.' Like, bad. Not even, like, you know?

**Ed Gamble**

Was everyone snapping at each other though? Was everyone hangry? Like, everybody's just like-

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

No, I don't think, I mean, I think that they, I don't know. I remember on 'End Game', just, Chris Hemsworth would always have these, kind of, Tupperware containers and he's eating this gruel of just a mash of stuff and then he's working out and then, you know, and you stand next to a guy like that and he's eating and I just think, 'What's the point of any of this?' It's like, 'Why am I killing myself when it's like, that can exist,' and then I'd look at what I'm doing and like, 'And then this exists.' It's just like, 'I can never achieve that.'

**Ed Gamble**

Also, you're in a full, like, suit most of the time and tiny.

**James Acaster**

Helmet.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Well, that was the good thing is that, I guess, like, Ant Man, you know, it isn't 'Thor'.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

But I tried to workout like Thor and, I mean, it didn't, you know, it didn't work.

**James Acaster**

Question about 'End Game'.

**Paul Rudd**

Okay?

**James Acaster**

There's one bit in the edit in the final battle where you're in the car sorting out your car, but it cuts back to the big battle and giant Ant Man is there, fighting.

**Paul Rudd**

Right.

**James Acaster**

Explain it.

**Ed Gamble**

Sorry, Paul.

**Paul Rudd**

No, no. Look, it's a quantum realm. There are parallel universes. There are different things happening. I know that there are people that are so fascinated by this kind of thing that they're listening to every word right now. It's just a huge mistake. Did the editors not catch it? I mean, they worked on it, so- I'm sure there's a justification and they'll come up with one if they haven't already.

**James Acaster**

Do you think they will or will they correct it in the-

**Paul Rudd**

Or do you think they've even noticed?

**James Acaster**

I mean, the internet has noticed so much that, surely, they realise by now.

**Paul Rudd**

Right. They kind of know everything.



**James Acaster**

They must know.

**Ed Gamble**

What's happening now, because you and James are working together at the moment, and, obviously, these are the questions he's never going to ask you when you're just working. So, now we're in a recorded podcast atmosphere-,

**Paul Rudd**

Right. Now, we're on it.

**Ed Gamble**

Now, you're getting all of the stuff that he wants to say to you all day long.

**James Acaster**

Actually, I think, straight out the gate, I was asking these sorts of questions, wasn't I? I think, day one, I was going, 'You own a sweet shop, Paul.'

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I thought, 'I'm not going to pretend to Paul that I don't know about his life. Paul's famous enough. I know you own a sweet shop. I'm going to say it on day one.'

**Paul Rudd**

I like it. I'm glad. I'm glad you did because it gave me an opportunity to talk about myself and I'll grab that any chance I can get. No, but that's the fun, isn't it? We were sitting, actually, around, we were working on Ghostbusters, and Dan Aykroyd was there. It's, like, getting to hear him talk about-, 'How did the Blues Brothers start?' Yes, it was pretty cool.

**James Acaster**

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Paul Rudd? Poppadoms or bread?

**Paul Rudd**

Bread. Bread.

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Again, it's perfect. It's a great thing when that bread is hot and they bring it out. Like, all kinds of bread.



**James Acaster**

I was going to say, is there a specific type that you like?

**Paul Rudd**

Bagel with cream cheese. That's bread. That's perfect.

**James Acaster**

If you want to start your meal with a bagel with cream cheese, you can do that.

**Paul Rudd**

There are no rules here, is there?

**Ed Gamble**

There are no rules. It's the dream restaurant.

**James Acaster**

Also, I'm finding the cream cheese thing quite interesting with the sauce talk.

**Ed Gamble**

Are you?

**James Acaster**

I think that's, like, big mayonnaise.

**Paul Rudd**

It's got a thicker consistency. It seems as if cream cheese would be something that I would hate. Like, cottage cheese. I'm not a cottage cheese-

**Ed Gamble**

No. Well, who is? And, if you are, what's wrong with you?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. You've got to really sit and think hard about what's important to you if you're eating cottage cheese. No, cream cheese I've always loved. Again, there's no real consistency here, but I care about consistency. I guess, that's why I like cream cheese over cottage cheese.

**James Acaster**

Are you having a sesame bagel with the cream cheese?

**Paul Rudd**

I like an everything bagel with cream cheese. That's great. I love a sesame bagel. I like a poppy seed bagel. I don't care that they're in my teeth after. I like it all.



**James Acaster**

Now, New York, obviously, loads of great bagel places.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Spoiled for choice maybe?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. There are a lot of really, really great ones, but, I mean, there's a place around the corner from where I live, they have incredible bagels. I don't even remember the name of the place. It's just like a little deli kind of thing. And, then, there's a place across the street, they opened after the pandemic, and it's croissants, and they do an everything croissant.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh my God.

**Paul Rudd**

And they'll do a raspberry filled or a chocolate. It's the best I've ever had. They're incredible.

**James Acaster**

So, now, I mean, for the bread course-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, what's the choice? You can have a croissant.

**Paul Rudd**

No, no, no. I would choose a bagel over the-, but also, like, if I'm in a restaurant and they bring out that hot basket of bread, and you pour the olive oil in the dish, put a little salt in the olive oil, and then sop up sourdough or something, come on. I don't even need a meal. I'm good with that.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, it's going to be a short podcast.

**Paul Rudd**

That's it. That's my answer on everything. Main, sourdough bread. Side, bagel.

**James Acaster**

So, what bread course do you want, then?

**Ed Gamble**

We could do a little basket. Could we do a little basket?



**James Acaster**

There are a lot of contenders. So, a little basket that's got sourdough, bagel-,

**Ed Gamble**

Bagel with cream cheese.

**Paul Rudd**

Or, like, one of those pretzel breads. Have you ever seen those?

**James Acaster**

Sure.

**Paul Rudd**

Those are good.

**James Acaster**

Do you like the pretzel breads?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. I think one of the great joys is when they put down the basket, and, then, you take, like, one of the little rolls or something, and maybe one of those rolls has some of that powdered white whatever on the top of it, just enough to get on your fingers, you know?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Paul Rudd**

And when you open it up and it's hot, like, you weren't expecting the heat, and, then, you can put the butter on and it starts melting (ph 33.22). Like, that's my bread.

**James Acaster**

That's your bread?

**Paul Rudd**

I'm choosing that.

**James Acaster**

You want powdered roll that you're not expecting to be hot.

**Paul Rudd**

It doesn't have to be powdered. It can be, like, a sourdough roll, but when it's hot and you weren't expecting it? That's the greatest.



**Ed Gamble**

I tell you when that feeling is increased by ten. When you're on a plane, and they bring you a bread roll, and it's hot, and you're double not expecting it to be hot on a plane, are you?

**Paul Rudd**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

It blows my mind.

**Paul Rudd**

God, what airline are you flying?

**Ed Gamble**

Well, I can't possibly say.

**Paul Rudd**

That is, I can only imagine.

**Ed Gamble**

It happens now and again, right? Benito knows.

**James Acaster**

Well, you see, Ed has just got back from Australia and New Zealand. So, Ed, I can't remember. Now you're saying it, I'm, like, 'I don't think that's ever happened to me on a flight,' but I can't remember. But, clearly, it's happened to you very recently.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. It's happened to me before though as well.

**James Acaster**

So, you've got it in your head as, like, 'Oh yes. This is great when this happens.'

**Paul Rudd**

So, they come around then?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

And they offer that, and it's hot, and you are psyched.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.



**Paul Rudd**

When they come around and say, 'More bread?' do you go more bread?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, of course. Always more bread. Also, never say no on a travel day. That's my rule.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. It's a standard thing, isn't it? It's, like, I'm on a plane. I can eat-,

**Ed Gamble**

I'm in the sky. I'm not on the earth.

**Paul Rudd**

I'll take three roles and I'm going to order the ravioli. Do you ever think, 'I'm going to go with the vegetarian choice on an aeroplane versus the meat?'

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Sometimes because when it's, like, chicken, you're, like, 'There's no way they're getting this right.' So, you may as well go with the cheesy option.

**James Acaster**

I almost always go with the veggie option now.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you?

**James Acaster**

Yes because I used to get so frustrated with the meat option and, most of the time, if I was sitting near someone who had the veggie option, I'd see it and go, 'They've clearly got that right. It's fine. I should have done that.' So, now, I do that and feel really smug that I did it and I thought of it in advance, and feel very proud of myself.

**Paul Rudd**

I've noticed that, recently, I've been ordering the pasta more and more because I used to be, like, 'Good. Beef tenderloin.' But, sometimes, you don't want to think about it too hard.

**James Acaster**

They don't ever go, 'How do you want that cooked?'

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. It's never, 'How would you like that?'



**James Acaster**

Yes, yes. It's not going to happen. I met someone recently-, I can't remember the full story now.

**Ed Gamble**

We're going to need to hear that now.

**Paul Rudd**

That's it, that's the story. He just met someone recently.

**Ed Gamble**

It was someone who had the worst steak ever, and they were telling me about it, but they listen to the podcast. It might have just been a listener who came up to me and said they listened to it, and I said, like, 'Dream main course?' to them, and they were, 'Yes. A well-done steak.' And I was, like, 'Fuck off. Never listen to the podcast ever again.'

**James Acaster**

Your dream starter, Paul?

**Paul Rudd**

Caesar salad. Very traditional, nothing too fancy there, but I think I will always go for a Caesar salad if it's there, and I love it.

**James Acaster**

This could be the first time we've had this.

**Ed Gamble**

I think it might be. Huge respect for it as well because I love a Caesar salad.

**Paul Rudd**

You know, not all Caesars are created equal.

**Ed Gamble**

No. That's from Shakespeare, isn't it?

**Paul Rudd**

That it, yes. That was Coriolanus. And, so, I think that, if you get that mixture just right, when they're at the table-side, and they'll come over and they'll make it.

**James Acaster**

That's nice.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, it's a nice thing.



**James Acaster**

Is there a specific place that does that?

**Paul Rudd**

I don't go to that place. I've heard it happens now and again.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Other people have been. Ed's told you about it on his flight that he went on, they came and did that for him.

**Ed Gamble**

There's not a lot of room for them to do it, but it's really worth it.

**Paul Rudd**

Actually, like, another starter where they do come over that I love, just the guacamole and chips and, then, they do the table-side guacamole where they'll make that.

**James Acaster**

That's good.

**Paul Rudd**

That might give a Caesar salad a run for its money, actually.

**James Acaster**

Oh, really?

**Ed Gamble**

So, it's the table-side element that you're enjoying here.

**Paul Rudd**

I don't care what it is, as long as you're making it next to me.

**Ed Gamble**

We can do this with all the courses. This is the dream restaurant. So, they're baking this bread next to you, obviously.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. I like to know how it's prepared because I've seen some of those kitchens, especially on aeroplanes. Guacamole is also something I discovered late in life. Avocados in general. I mean, you know, when I was little, nobody was talking about avocados. I didn't even know what one really looked like. And, then, all of a sudden, there were avocados, and people were talking about avocados. I like salsa and I would always have salsa with the chips. That's for you, Aisling. But, then, all of a sudden, guacamole, kind of, entered the picture, and, I mean, it's one of the great joys of my life, I would say, at this point.



**Ed Gamble**

But, again, all guacamoles are not created equal.

**Paul Rudd**

No, they're not.

**Ed Gamble**

You can get some terrible guacamoles.

**Paul Rudd**

You can get some horrible ones. I don't like it when it's sour creamy. By the way, that's another one I don't like. I don't want to deal with sour cream.

**Ed Gamble**

This love of cream cheese is really seeming odder and odder now.

**Paul Rudd**

I know. It's the outlier because, yes, sour cream, again, I don't really know, like mayonnaise, what it is.

**Ed Gamble**

It's got the word sour in it.

**James Acaster**

I'd say the clue is in the name with sour cream.

**Paul Rudd**

But that's just it. I like cream, I like sour things, but there's something else. There's thousand island in it. You're right. I probably really could have deconstructed that and figured out the ingredients, but some guacamoles, they make it with that, and it's, like, ugh.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you like a chunky guac?

**Paul Rudd**

Oh, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Or a smooth guac?

**James Acaster**

That as literally my next question.

**Paul Rudd**

No, I like a chunky guac.



**James Acaster**

Yes because that's less like sauce.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, it is. I'll go for a smooth guac too, but a chunky-, I like chunky peanut butter. I like chunky stuff.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you ever seen the guac that comes in the squeeze bottles?

**Paul Rudd**

Like toothpaste?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. You can just do, like, little strips of guac.

**James Acaster**

I don't know.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't treat it like a ketchup.

**Paul Rudd**

Some people have a real aversion to-,

**James Acaster**

Just, like, sprinkling that on the top of food?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, and they put it in guacamole.

**Ed Gamble**

It tastes like soap to some people, right?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, yes. They have a really strong aversion. I don't mind it, but, yes, my wife hates it.

**James Acaster**

Yes. I think it's a genetic thing. It's a genuine genetic thing where, like, to some people, it tastes like soap and they just can't get over that. It's like how some people can smell asparagus in their pee and some people can't.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.



**Ed Gamble**

I thought everyone could.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

I smell it enough for everyone.

**James Acaster**

Yes. So, you smell it, but I don't.

**Paul Rudd**

I think everyone smells the asparagus in your pee.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

He can't smell the asparagus in my pee.

**Paul Rudd**

No, no. I'm not talking about mine. I think we all smell it in yours.

**James Acaster**

Is this what people have been whispering about on set? I've been wondering.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Well, also, ginger, I think my wife has a bit of a super taster kind of thing, and she's, like, it tastes like Lemon Pledge to her. It tastes like cleaning solution.

**Ed Gamble**

Your wife says that about everything though, doesn't she?

**James Acaster**

Lemon Pledge is very specific.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Well, to be fair, she hates eating Lemon Pledge.

**James Acaster**

So, you're going for the Caesar salad over the table-side guac?



**Ed Gamble**

I want to talk more about Caesar salads though because, like you say, there are a lot of things that can go wrong. There are a lot of elements. What's in your dream Caesar salad?

**James Acaster**

Can I ask one more guac question before we move on?

**Ed Gamble**

Please.

**James Acaster**

Do you think you like avocados because they're the opposite to you because they age really quickly?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. That's exactly right. It's the polar opposite. It's the Dorian Gray of-, is it a vegetable, is it a fruit?

**James Acaster**

I think it's a pear, right?

**Paul Rudd**

It's a pair.

**Ed Gamble**

It's a pair. Yes, you have an avocado in the attic ageing really badly. Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Just a shriveled-up, brown avocado.

**James Acaster**

Now everyone knows.

**Ed Gamble**

Again, that would be a great remake of that film.

**James Acaster**

Sorry, back to the Caesar salad.

**Paul Rudd**

I mean, do you even put an avocado in the Caesar salad? I'd eat it.

**Ed Gamble**

I'd eat that for sure, yes.



**James Acaster**

Yes, I'd eat that.

**Paul Rudd**

Unlike, you know, a chili dog, where it's, like, make up your mind, I'd go for a guacamole in my Caesar.

**James Acaster**

Yes?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, I don't care. I like them both that much.

**Ed Gamble**

We can do it.

**James Acaster**

We can do that for you. This is your dream meal.

**Paul Rudd**

No, actually, it sounds gross.

**James Acaster**

It's good to be alive.

**Ed Gamble**

What's going in this Caesar salad?

**Paul Rudd**

Oh yes, that's right. I mean, I like it pretty basic. I don't love it when they put anchovies on top.

**Ed Gamble**

But they're in the dressing anyway, right?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes and that's fine. I want that, yes. So, some make it with raw eggs. Others do not, like my mom doesn't. She's never made it with raw eggs, I don't think. I like a Caesar salad that isn't too fishy tasting and I don't like a lot of cheese on it. I don't want there to be a lot of croutons, but I can go with a few croutons. I like just a classic.

**Ed Gamble**

And do you want, like, a soft-boiled egg on there as well?

**Paul Rudd**

No.



**Ed Gamble**

No?

**Paul Rudd**

No.

**James Acaster**

No, that doesn't sound classic to me.

**Ed Gamble**

Crispy bacon?

**Paul Rudd**

See, they do them differently here. I could do with crispy bacon on it, yes, but I don't really get any accoutrements.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't want it to be too busy?

**Paul Rudd**

I love eggs, but I've never been a fan of egg in a salad. You're looking at me like-,

**Ed Gamble**

No, I'm interested because I just think you like your simple things.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You don't want it too busy.

**Paul Rudd**

No, no.

**Ed Gamble**

I understand the egg thing. Like, I like an egg with a salad.

**Paul Rudd**

My favourite colour as a kid was brown. So, it just really tells you a little bit of, like, I like simple and not obvious choices.

**James Acaster**

But brown's a bit of everything. Brown's everything mixed together. That's the opposite of your-,



**Ed Gamble**

But it's no kid's favourite colour, is it? That's the first time I've heard that.

**James Acaster**

That's great.

**Paul Rudd**

No, I loved brown.

**Ed Gamble**

'What's your favourite colour, Paul?' 'Brown.'

**Paul Rudd**

Brown. And I think it might have been that it was no one's favourite colour.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's good. That's cool.

**Paul Rudd**

I felt bad for brown, but I also liked brown.

**Ed Gamble**

I thought you were saying you were, like, a rebellious kid. So, you were, like, 'Yes, brown. Fuck you.' But it was because you felt bad for brown?

**Paul Rudd**

I'll tell you one thing, it was never blue. Everyone loved blue.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I was blue.

**Paul Rudd**

Everyone was blue. So I, 'Blue's fine. I like blue, okay?' But I liked brown. And then I was, like, 'And green's okay. I, kind of, like green,' and, then, for a while, I was, 'Yes. No, green's great. I really like green.'

**Ed Gamble**

You can tell brown's not a popular kid's colour because there wasn't a turtle who had a brown mask and there wasn't a brown Power Ranger.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, I've always been fairly simple. I'll go with brown.



**Ed Gamble**

It sounds delicious, the Caesar salad.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Yes, Caesar salad.

**James Acaster**

How many croutons, exactly, do you want on this Caesar salad?

**Ed Gamble**

And what size?

**James Acaster**

Exactly how many?

**Paul Rudd**

Exactly how many?

**James Acaster**

Yes and how big are they?

**Paul Rudd**

I don't know. It's interesting. Sometimes, they get the really small ones, but then you think, 'Were those in a bag?' And, then, you get the ones that are a thick, kind of, 'They made this.' I like those and, when they're big like that, I don't want to have too many, but I don't want to have too few. Just right. It's like the fairy-,

**James Acaster**

Goldilocks Caesar salad.

**Paul Rudd**

Three little pigs.

**Ed Gamble**

Imagine being a waiter, and you're at the table, and they're making the Caesar salad table-side, and you're going, 'And I want as many croutons as you think is just right.'

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. I'll leave this one up to the chef.

**Ed Gamble**

The guy's panicking so much. 'Oh, God.'



**Paul Rudd**

The three little pigs blew the house in. I think I got my fairytales mixed up.

**Ed Gamble**

The three bears you were thinking of. Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The three little pigs, nothing was just right.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. I was out late last night.

**Ed Gamble**

Classic hangover symptom.

**James Acaster**

One other person has picked a Caesar salad on the podcast. Dan Aykroyd.

**Paul Rudd**

Dan Aykroyd.

**James Acaster**

That is it. That is the one other person.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but to be fair, Dan Aykroyd picked everything.

**James Acaster**

Yes. We wouldn't remember what Dan picked because he went through it at a thousand miles an hour.

**Paul Rudd**

But he named Caesar salad.

**James Acaster**

So, you can go into work this week and bring it up to Dan. And go-

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't say you talked about it on the Off Menu podcast because I'm assured he has absolutely no memory of recording it whatsoever.

**James Acaster**

Yes, he doesn't know what that is.



**Paul Rudd**

Here we go. I love Dan Aykroyd and, when I see him tomorrow perhaps, I'm going to say, 'You and me, pal. Caesar salads.'

**James Acaster**

So, your dream main course?

**Paul Rudd**

My dream main course would be, and it's my mom's, roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and roast potatoes. Sunday roast.

**James Acaster**

You're going back to your English roots?

**Paul Rudd**

It's my favourite. If I was on death row, that's what I'm ordering.

**Ed Gamble**

A pretty sad day for your mum.

**James Acaster**

A pretty sad day for your mum.

**Paul Rudd**

Wait, what did you say?

**Ed Gamble**

That's a very sad day for your mum.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. That's what I'm ordering, which, I guess, would mean I'm on death row at a fairly young age.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Your mum's got to make your last meal. That's pretty heavy for her.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. It's, like, 'Mom. I know I ask you to do everything, but could you just make me the roast with the Yorkshire pudding?'

**Ed Gamble**

She puts a key and everything.

**Paul Rudd**

'It's too late, mom. They're watching. I can't get out. There's no way.'



**Ed Gamble**

They check the beef.

**James Acaster**

A full loaded gun in the beef.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, but she can't hide it in the Yorkshire. That's too obvious.

**James Acaster**

So, this is something you've had your whole life, I guess?

**Paul Rudd**

My whole life.

**James Acaster**

From a little kid.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, and I think it just reminds me of growing up, and, also, growing up in the States, certainly, no one knew what Yorkshire pudding was.

**Ed Gamble**

Bliss.

**James Acaster**

Ed.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. You hate Yorkshire pudding.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Did you know this already? I haven't told-

**Paul Rudd**

I heard it. I heard it on the podcast once. You were talking about it because I think maybe Richard E Grant or something talking about Yorkshire pudding. How do you-, it's so-,

**Ed Gamble**

It's so bland, man.



**Paul Rudd**

Yes. That's probably why I like them. I don't want to put anything on them. I don't eat gravy. I don't use them to soak up anything. I just eat them. They're brown. They're my favourite colour and my favourite flavour.

**Ed Gamble**

You had posters of them on your wall as a kid.

**Paul Rudd**

That's exactly right. Nobody's favourite food is Yorkshire pudding. I'm choosing that one.

**James Acaster**

The driest, brownest food around.

**Paul Rudd**

That's it.

**Ed Gamble**

Also, it makes people really angry when I say I don't like them. So, I'll stick with it.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, yes. No, that's fun.

**Ed Gamble**

But I think you're in the majority when you love Yorkshire puddings, you know.

**Paul Rudd**

Well, also, you know, I didn't realise no one knew what this was, but, then, growing up, I thought, 'No one here knows what this is. No one makes it. You can't go to any restaurant and find it.' And, so, whenever I'd come here, it was, like, 'Ah. Everyone here knows what this is.'

**James Acaster**

How old were you when you moved to the States?

**Paul Rudd**

I was born there. I lived there my whole life, but I've been coming to London my whole life, and most of my family is here, and I'm the first American in my family. So, England, and London in particular, has always felt very much like home. So, I think that that was when I was back in the States and we'd have that, it made me feel connected. Yes.

**James Acaster**

How many Yorkshire puddings are you having on the plate?



**Paul Rudd**

Twelve.

**James Acaster**

Twelve.

**Ed Gamble**

What size Yorkshire puddings are we thinking because, obviously, you can get those giant ones that cover the whole plate that people put loads of stuff in.

**Paul Rudd**

No. Like, a muffin size. Like, yes, a standard, not too big. That's another thing I remembered. You say they take up too much real estate on the plate.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, they do. They take up too much real estate on the plate. And where do you stand on that opinion?

**Paul Rudd**

I think that I see what you're saying. I get it.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you.

**Paul Rudd**

But they're so light, you can rest them on top of something else.

**Ed Gamble**

Right. I see. Yes, yes, yes. So, you're almost adding an extra floor to the meal, right?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. You know, there's a game called Triopoly that is a three-level Monopoly game. You can play Monopoly. It's great, Monopoly. A great game.

**Ed Gamble**

Oh, yes. I immediately want to play it, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, sure.

**Paul Rudd**

You land on a square, you go up a level, and it's three boards stacked. And the second board is smaller so it doesn't cover the properties on the lower board, and then there's a third one on top, and you're going up, and you have three levels of Monopoly. That's how I like my Sunday roast. I want roast potatoes on top of my roast beef, and, then, I want a Yorkshire pudding on the top.



**Ed Gamble**

How are you eating that then because do you go down layer by layer, or are you cutting away at the sides, sort of, like Jenga?

**James Acaster**

And, also, an additional question, which property is each element of the food? Which bit of the food is Old Kent Road, which bit of the food is Park Lane?

**Paul Rudd**

Right, right, right.

**Ed Gamble**

Which version of Monopoly are you playing for a start?

**Paul Rudd**

God, I forgot. You guys only know the English Monopoly. Like, Old Kent Road. Is that a place where you get your potatoes?

**James Acaster**

You would love Old Kent Road. It's brown on the board. On the board, it's the brown colour.

**Paul Rudd**

Is it?

**James Acaster**

Yes, yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Okay.

**Ed Gamble**

What's on American Monopoly, then?

**Paul Rudd**

Alright. So, it's all, kind of, Atlantic City, and it's Venter Avenue. The two prime ones are Park Place and Boardwalk. By the way though, everyone says, 'I want to get that,' but it's the most expensive and it's right by Go, but no one ever gets there. You've got to focus on the medium properties. Where is Old Kent Road on the board?

**James Acaster**

That's, like, early doors.

**Ed Gamble**

Early doors, yes.



**James Acaster**

That's, like, the cheapest.

**Paul Rudd**

Oh, it's the cheapest? Right out of Go?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. So, it's almost immediately after Go.

**Paul Rudd**

You don't need Old Kent Road. Like, you can go past that and get the properties-, look, if I land there, I'm going to buy it if it's available and I've got the cash, but I'm going to move forward and try and get the light blue spaces.

**Ed Gamble**

The blues and the oranges are-,

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. I don't know if the colours are the same.

**James Acaster**

It sounds like it.

**Ed Gamble**

It feels like the colours should be the same really.

**Paul Rudd**

How many people do you think we've lost, up to now, talking about this?

**Ed Gamble**

I think people have enjoyed it, weirdly.

**James Acaster**

Good riddance to them.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes?

**James Acaster**

Anyone who doesn't like this-,

**Ed Gamble**

I think people have fast-forwarded to this bit.



**Paul Rudd**

Yes. It's, like, 'Forget about all the sauces. I want to hear his whole Monopoly spiel.'

**Ed Gamble**

The Monopoly man's listening, he's losing it.

**James Acaster**

Yes. UK versus US Monopoly and the differences.

**Paul Rudd**

And you still have Chance and Community Chest?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes. We still have those. Yes, absolutely.

**Paul Rudd**

I had a friend. We went through a whole, kind of, Monopoly phase and, whenever he would land on Community Chest, he would always just say, 'Mutuity Chest.' And it would always make me laugh, and, so, now, to this day, I can't even say Community Chest. I just want to go, 'Mutuity Chest.'

**James Acaster**

I like that friend.

**Ed Gamble**

It wasn't Walt, was it?

**James Acaster**

It wasn't Walt, no way.

**Paul Rudd**

No, it's Beau. It was my friend Beau. One of the funniest guys.

**James Acaster**

I think a Monopoly board is too much like a paper plate. He wouldn't be able to play.

**Ed Gamble**

Imagine.

**James Acaster**

He would look down-,



**Paul Rudd**

Yes, and then he'd say, like, 'Look at Kentucky Avenue. It's red. And look at Marvin Gardens, it's yellow. Imagine Kentucky Avenue and Marvin Gardens swirled together on a hot day playing Monopoly.'

**James Acaster**

Yes, that would be it.

**Ed Gamble**

'Bluegh.' 'Oh, you've puked on the Mutity Chest.'

**James Acaster**

Game over.

**Paul Rudd**

Mutity Chest.

**James Acaster**

So, yes. Let's layer this up.

**Paul Rudd**

Okay. You know, I like a lot of stuff on the plate. You can't have too much because then it gets hard to cut into the meat and all of that. Yes, I'm going into the meat first and then I'll usually save-, yes, I eat things together. You know, some people go, like, 'I finish all the potatoes, and then I move onto-', and they eat their dinner in phases, and that is weird to me. I'm going to just try and, if it's stacked, go into whatever is going to, like Jenga, keep the thing balanced. I don't know what it will be.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, but you are getting a bit of Yorkshire pudding. You're not leaving the Yorkshire puddings or you're not eating all of them first because they're the top layer. You're trying to get a bit of everything.

**Paul Rudd**

A bit of everything. I try and space it out. You know, Christmas morning, I'm not going to go and open the biggest present first. You've got to pace yourself, spread it out, and make this last longer.

**Ed Gamble**

It's very restrained of you.

**Paul Rudd**

That's the way I deal with my food. Restraint.

**James Acaster**

So, you've got beef, Yorkshire puddings. What else is on this plate?



**Paul Rudd**

Some kind of vegetable. I would say, I mean, I like peas and I like broccoli a lot. I love Brussels sprouts, another thing that came around to me later in life. Green beans, asparagus, it doesn't even matter. I'd like a lot of vegetables.

**James Acaster**

A lot of veg.

**Ed Gamble**

You've got to watch out for that asparagus though because you'll start smelling James' piss.

**James Acaster**

Yes, man.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, yes, exactly, and that's it. In fact, if I'll eat it, I'll go, 'Jeez. It smells like James in here.'

**Ed Gamble**

It does sound delicious and thank you so much for stacking the Yorkshires on top so they don't take up any real estate on the plate.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. No, I understand. It could be construed as wasted space. It's just really air and you're having air take up a third of your plate.

**James Acaster**

But, now you've said that, for too long, he's, on this podcast, has said that real estate thing to people, and they've got no comeback, and they go, 'Well, we could put stuff in the Yorkshires,' and he's, like, 'No, no no.' But no one's gone, 'I can put the Yorkshire on something. So, now, in future episodes-

**Paul Rudd**

Put it on top. It's not going to weigh it down. And then you can always just like, take it off and put it even on the table. It's fine. It's fine.

**Ed Gamble**

Put it in the bin.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, you could put it in the bin.

**James Acaster**

Your dream side dish? So, you've got this big plate of roast dinner here.



**Paul Rudd**

Okay. You know what? Here we go because there's roast potatoes on the plate, but a side of fries, a side of chips. The thick cut, truly, like, great chips, that's it. That's what I'm going with.

**James Acaster**

Gold and crispy?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes and, obviously, we know how you like them.

**Ed Gamble**

Dry as the desert.

**Paul Rudd**

That's exactly right. I don't want to soil them with any sort of saucy nonsense. People put vinegar on. Like, do you put vinegar on?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Paul Rudd**

It turns out that's a lot of people-

**Ed Gamble**

From a fish and chip shop, yes.

**Paul Rudd**

In Canada, I remember visiting my cousins, and they were, like, 'You've got to put vinegar on your chips,' when I was little. I was, like, 'What?' And it was, like, yes, everybody does that. In Canada, everybody puts vinegar on their chips.

**James Acaster**

From a chip shop.

**Ed Gamble**

From a fish and chip shop, yes.



**James Acaster**

Fish and chip shop, I'm going salt and vinegar every time, and I'm really going heavy on the vinegar, and I love it.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. By the way, I can handle that. Vinegar on the chips, I can rock with that.

**Ed Gamble**

But not on fries or anything like that?

**James Acaster**

No, absolutely not.

**Ed Gamble**

Specifically from a fish and chip shop?

**James Acaster**

Yes. Or, like, if I'm at a pub and I get the fish and chips at a pub, I'll do it.

**Ed Gamble**

Fish and chips.

**James Acaster**

That's fish and chips.

**Paul Rudd**

Also, fish and chips from a pub, that is one of the great all-time meals ever. Yes.

**James Acaster**

Your main courses seem to be very English-based.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Well, you know, I was thinking, I love the idea of a Margarita, and chips, and guacamole, and I love Mexican food, or I love sushi, and I love Italian, but these ideas of being outside and having a nice, light, just great meal. I think I'm more about dark, cold and indoors.

**Ed Gamble**

Brown.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, brown. And it's brown. I want to sit and have a, like, potato and leek soup. Ugh. That's good stuff, and, then, some kind of pub food.



**Ed Gamble**

Because pubs are quite brown a lot of the time as well to make a traditional place.

**James Acaster**

Yes. Nothing browner than a pub.

**Paul Rudd**

That's exactly right. Well, wait until you hear what drink I want.

**Ed Gamble**

We didn't talk about gravy. That didn't even come up, especially with all the sauce situation.

**James Acaster**

Apologies. With all the brown talk.

**Ed Gamble**

With the main, are you smothering this Jenga in gravy?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, I like gravy. I don't have to smother it though. Too much gravy, I think, gets in the way. It makes everything a little too chilli dog. It makes it a little too messy and, so, I don't need to go crazy with the gravy.

**Ed Gamble**

And would you be dipping these side chips in the gravy at any point or are you not-,

**James Acaster**

Come on, Ed. Don't ask questions you already know the answer to.

**Paul Rudd**

What do you think, I'm a philistine? I don't need to do that at all, I mean, I could. I'm might, you know, sweep it on the plate, but I don't need that, I put salt on it though.

**James Acaster**

You've already got the potatoes on the plate, right, so you've got that, sort of, starch with the gravy?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Alright, it's just to cover all these bases.

**Paul Rudd**

Don't cross the streams. Yes.



**James Acaster**

Staying on brand.

**Ed Gamble**

Whatever film Paul's doing.

**Paul Rudd**

That's it, I can only think that way. It's a little bit, like, I'm Daniel Day Lewis, that way.

**James Acaster**

Yes, he's focus-

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, I can't shake it.

**Ed Gamble**

On set we have to call him Grooberson.

**Paul Rudd**

That's exactly it.

**Ed Gamble**

Gary Grooberson, otherwise he doesn't respond.

**Paul Rudd**

Then showing up six months before shooting widdling a proton pack.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm trying to think if there's funny on set stories about Paul, but there's not really. He's just a nice guy.

**James Acaster**

Yes, no one needs to hear that.

**Paul Rudd**

As bland as the food that I eat.

**Ed Gamble**

How was Paul Rudd?

**James Acaster**

He's a nice normal guy.

**Paul Rudd**

He's like dry white toast.



**Ed Gamble**

So, your dream drink is it brown?

**Paul Rudd**

It would be brown, yes. It would be a pint of Guinness.

**James Acaster**

Ah, very deep brown.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

The deepest of browns.

**Ed Gamble**

I mean, you're right, because it looks black in the glass, but if you really look that's brown, almost red brown, yes.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, you're absolutely right, it's the nectar of the gods.

**James Acaster**

Yes, huge respect for this, fantastic. This was in Ed's dream menu.

**Ed Gamble**

It was instead of water, though. I didn't have as my dream drink, I had it instead of the water.

**James Acaster**

So, he didn't chose still or sparkling, he chose a pint of Guinness.

**Paul Rudd**

He chose a pint of Guinness over still or sparkling water.

**Ed Gamble**

I think it's more hydrating than water.

**Paul Rudd**

It's good for you.

**Ed Gamble**

It is good for you, people drink it after marathons because it's got so many great nutrients in it.



**Paul Rudd**

You know, after childbirth, when my wife gave birth to our first child-

**James Acaster**

You had a pint of Guinness.

**Paul Rudd**

I had a pint of Guinness and I felt great. I felt like I ran a marathon. It's funny you should say, yes, I gave her a pint of Guinness. She had a pint of Guinness, and my mom did the same thing. She gave her a pint of Guinness. She was smashed. I was like, 'Hon, come on, we've got a baby you've got to take care of it.' She's like, 'Woo!' 'Come on, babe.'

**Ed Gamble**

Just a queue of people out of the door.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, it was just, 'Who's the lady that like Guinness?'

**Ed Gamble**

Do you want the shamrock in the top of the Guinness?

**Paul Rudd**

No, I don't need any of that touristy garbage.

**James Acaster**

Yes, quite right.

**Paul Rudd**

No, but it needs to be poured properly because people don't know how to pour Guinness, because there's a real way to do it. Here's something that if you're in a pub and you see somebody pouring a Guinness, they have to-, you know, you take it up when you leave a little bit of space, and then you let it rest for, I believe the optimum time is a minute nineteen and a half seconds. I think, there really is an optimum time, and then, instead of pulling the tap, you push the tap forward to finish it off. Something about nitrogen release, and that, kind of, thing, and that's the way you do it. People don't know that. I mean, a lot of people-, you can see people pouring Guinness in bars, and you just, like, this-,

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, they're doing it all in one, and it's all foaming on the top.

**Paul Rudd**

Doing it in one, you're like, 'Come on.'



**James Acaster**

You don't know until it's too late. You've ordered the Guinness, are you ever there with your head in your hands, 'Oh, fuck this.'

**Paul Rudd**

I'm like, going to have to grin and bear it. I'm going to drink it, I'm not going to send it back, because that doesn't seem agreeable.

**James Acaster**

No.

**Ed Gamble**

You're right, you can't send it back.

**Paul Rudd**

It would be-, I mean, if you say, 'I need you to pour me a new one, you didn't pour that right.' I can't-, I would feel like-, I mean, I would never do that, because I would feel like just a huge jerk, but if somebody that was next to me, said, 'You didn't pour it right,' I would say, 'That guy's my hero. Way to go.'

**James Acaster**

There are people who do that, but I would say that that is off limits to you now. You can't do it.

**Paul Rudd**

No, no, absolutely-,

**James Acaster**

Paul Rudd's told me to re-pour the Guinness, that's it.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, that's-,

**Ed Gamble**

It's one of the downsides of fame, I guess.

**Paul Rudd**

It's probably the biggest downside of fame, I can't ask them to pour me a Guinness the right way.

**James Acaster**

You just have to put up with it.

**Paul Rudd**

Thankfully, I'm getting them free now anyway, because I'm just, you know, famous.



**Ed Gamble**

Yes, I would respect the guy who did it, who made them pour it again, but then, I would keep quiet about that and I would catch eyes with the member of bar staff who may do it, and I'd go, like-

**Paul Rudd**

Roll the eyes and be, like, what a twat.

**Ed Gamble**

What a douche, right.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, and I would feel bad for the bartender.

**James Acaster**

Sure, yes.

**Paul Rudd**

I'd feel for- like, usually I feel bad for everybody involved. It's a real situation we've got on our hands.

**Ed Gamble**

Do you have-, because people are obsessed with specific places being good for a pint of Guinness.

**Paul Rudd**

There's some pubs that are really-, yes, that are, they pour a really good pint. There's an interesting thing that I learnt because people, in the States, if they're going over to Ireland, they say, 'Oh, you have to have Guinness there. It's better there. They make it differently,' and that's not true, they don't make it differently. In fact, the Guinness that you're drinking in the States, or anywhere else, it was made there, but it's been sent over in kegs, and when you're drinking it, even though it's totally fine, the chances are it was made two months ago, and when you're in Ireland, chances are it was made two days ago. So, that's why it tastes so good.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I mean, is that what you'd like for your dream meal? You know, pulled-,

**Paul Rudd**

I'd like to be drinking, I am in Ireland, drinking it, yes.

**James Acaster**

Yes, I mean, the Guinness-, the first ever Guinness I had in Dublin was just mind blowing. Like, 'Oh, this is completely different to any of the other-,'

**Ed Gamble**

It's because they look after the taps and the lines and all of that, they have, like, Guinness inspectors to go around and check.



**Paul Rudd**

Absolutely, it's really serious business, yes, and cleaning the lines, and doing all that, and doing it the right way, but yes, people going in and checking.

**James Acaster**

I love it.

**Paul Rudd**

Well, there's also the Brew Master. One time, years ago, I met the Brew Master at Guinness Store House in Dublin, and he said, you know, sometimes he's been in pubs and the bartenders will get really nervous. They know who he is, it's like having a food critic show up, and they're really making sure they're pouring properly, and yes, they're stressed out, it's a real thing to go over and have all of that stuff inspected and checked out.

**James Acaster**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

You met the Brew Master. Were you nervous to meet the Brew Master?

**Paul Rudd**

I was not nervous but I was excited, and he's the one that told me about the minute and nineteen and half seconds, and I poured one with him, and he gave me a certificate that says I know how to pour it properly. I think they give it to everybody that shows up, but it didn't matter, I felt like the cool kid in school.

**James Acaster**

'You don't get the certificate, you didn't pour it properly,' imagine that, the Brew Master telling you you'd failed.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, no certificate for you.

**James Acaster**

You've got to earn it, we take it seriously around here. See you later, come back again.

**Ed Gamble**

You've got to wait three months before you-

**James Acaster**

You've still got your provisional licence.



**Ed Gamble**

You've got to go and do a theory test. There's a video of someone pouring Guinness and you've have to hit the screen when they do something wrong.

**Paul Rudd**

That's right, no it's a six month course and you've really-, it's gruelling, and once you fail, if you fail once, it's back to the end of the line.

**Ed Gamble**

How was that Guinness that you poured yourself with the Brew Master present, under that supervision?

**Paul Rudd**

It was perfect.

**James Acaster**

So, do you want that exact Guinness for your-, you want the Brew Master supervised-,

**Paul Rudd**

I'd like the Brew Master to pour me one.

**James Acaster**

Yes, that Brew Master will pour you a lovely Guinness.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

That's what they say.

**James Acaster**

If you were offered to play the Brew Master in a film, would you do that?

**Paul Rudd**

I don't think ever get cast in that part. I think they'd have to go Irish because they take it so seriously, but if they said, you can do the accent, I'd say, 'right', and I'd say, 'okay, one, two, three, yes, I'll take it. I'll do the part.

**James Acaster**

That's great.

**Paul Rudd**

I would love to do it, and then I would go there and really do a lot of research.



**Ed Gamble**

It's nice to know how quickly you'd take the part though, because James gave no other details, it was just, 'We'd like you to play the Brew Master in a film,' and you've gone, 'Yes'.

**Paul Rudd**

When do you guys shooting by the way?

**James Acaster**

Very soon.

**Ed Gamble**

Who else is in it?

**James Acaster**

Aisling Bea, obviously.

**Paul Rudd**

Of course.

**James Acaster**

Yes, all the Gleesons are in it.

**Paul Rudd**

Oh, absolutely.

**James Acaster**

All of the Gleesons.

**Paul Rudd**

Domhnall, Brendon, Jackie.

**James Acaster**

They're all in it.

**Paul Rudd**

They're all in it.

**Ed Gamble**

Everyone else is Irish.

**Paul Rudd**

Joanna. Everyone else is Irish.



**James Acaster**

And it's about-, and I'm sure you're of this, I'm sure that you're aware of the history of it all, but it's about the killing spree that the Brew Master went on.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, no, it's fun, it really, kind of, checks a lot of boxes. I get to do an Irish accent. I get to be a killer.

**James Acaster**

He would take people to the brink of death and then he'd wait one minute nineteen seconds, and then he'd finish them off.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, and then he would actually take the knife and push it forward once it was buried in their chest, and not back, to let the gasses from the heart expel in the right way. Yes, no, he took it really seriously.

**James Acaster**

He wonders why people get nervous when he's around. He'd be a fucking murderer, mate.

**Paul Rudd**

It's nothing to do with getting the pouring right.

**James Acaster**

We come to your dessert now, which I'm excited about, as you said earlier, and one of the first things I spoke to you about was that you own a sweet shop.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm glad we're coming back to this because I don't think I knew this about the sweet shop, Paul.

**James Acaster**

Guess who Paul owns the sweet shop with, it's another actor.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm never going to guess.

**James Acaster**

Guess. Three guesses.

**Paul Rudd**

Three guesses. Three names.

**James Acaster**

Yes, the person has three names.

**Ed Gamble**

I'm struggling now.



**James Acaster**

It's great.

**Paul Rudd**

Daniel Day Lewis.

**James Acaster**

The best guessing game we've ever done.

**Ed Gamble**

This is a good guessing game.

**James Acaster**

Because Ed's got to do it.

**Ed Gamble**

Do I have any other questions available to me? Can it narrow it down, like gender? A man?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, because all I had was Chloë Grace Moretz. That's the only name I had in my head.

**Paul Rudd**

She didn't want anything to do with the business.

**Ed Gamble**

Fair enough.

**Paul Rudd**

We went to her first.

**Ed Gamble**

Because you knew you wanted to a sweet shop with someone with three names.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, that's it, that's the only requirement.

**Ed Gamble**

It's amazing how blank your head goes when you've got to think of someone with three names.

**James Acaster**

Just think of another question.



**Paul Rudd**

So, we have man.

**Ed Gamble**

Man.

**Paul Rudd**

We had enough. It's not enough.

**Ed Gamble**

A man and three names.

**Paul Rudd**

You've three names. A three named man.

**Ed Gamble**

A three named man.

**James Acaster**

Here we go.

**Ed Gamble**

Have you been in a film with them?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, but that's not going to be a give away because it was just a brief-, a movie no one saw, and he was in it for, like, ten seconds.

**Ed Gamble**

Right. Are they older or younger than you?

**Paul Rudd**

Older.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay.

**James Acaster**

That won't help you either.

**Ed Gamble**

That has not helped at all. I don't even know how old Paul is famously.



**Paul Rudd**

No one does. 73 by the way.

**Ed Gamble**

Are they American?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Alright, okay, that's not helped either really.

**James Acaster**

I assumed they were American to start with.

**Ed Gamble**

Have they won an Oscar?

**Paul Rudd**

No.

**James Acaster**

Fucking hell.

**Ed Gamble**

What?

**James Acaster**

These questions.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, well what questions would you ask?

**James Acaster**

I know what questions I'd ask because I know who it is, so I know how to get to it real quick.

**Paul Rudd**

Go ahead James, ask me some questions.

**James Acaster**

Are they mainly known for TV, would you say?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.



**James Acaster**

Is it-

**Ed Gamble**

That was quick.

**James Acaster**

Were they on The Walking Dead?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, they were.

**James Acaster**

Did they have a baseball bat on The Walking Dead?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Right.

**Ed Gamble**

Okay, well I didn't watch The Walking Dead, did I?

**James Acaster**

Well, Paul-

**Paul Rudd**

I think even if you had I don't know if you would have come-,

**Ed Gamble**

He's obsessed with The Walking Dead, so that's why he's so excited to do this guessing game. Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

**Paul Rudd**

That's right.

**James Acaster**

Yes, there you go.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, we own a candy store together.



**James Acaster**

That's amazing, what's the name of the candy store?

**Paul Rudd**

Samuel's Sweet Shop. It's in the town on Rhinebeck New York, and it was originally owned by a guy named Ira, and Samuel was his uncle whom he loved, and he had this candy store, and he passed away unexpectedly, and we knew Ira, and we knew this store, and it's a little, tiny town, and we wound up taking over the store to keep it going. It's really fun to have a candy store.

**James Acaster**

Do they make all the candy there, and stuff?

**Paul Rudd**

No, we don't make the candy there, but we have chocolates and lots of-, and kind of, baked, pastries and things that local people make.

**James Acaster**

Oh nice.

**Paul Rudd**

Then there's a lot of old time candy, and things. There's candy from different parts of the world, and it's not a big place, and then we also serve coffee.

**James Acaster**

So, have you got a proper sweet tooth?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, I really do. I mean, I love candy. That's one thing I've always been pretty passionate about, and I like candy that's made for little kids. I like that stuff.

**James Acaster**

Quite colourful though some of that candy.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Is there any, like, at Samuel's Sweet Shop that's your favourite, your go to, when you go in there?

**Paul Rudd**

Well, my favourite thing is a seasonal candy. There are these sour Santas, and every Christmas we get them. They look like little Gummy Bears almost. They're Santas, Father Christmas, and they're just like a cherry, sour cherry, kind of, thing. The consistency is perfect, and the taste it's like-, it's incredible, it's my favourite thing ever, and I like it that it's seasonal. It only comes out at Christmas.



**James Acaster**

So, you get excited about it?

**Paul Rudd**

I do.

**James Acaster**

You can't have it all year.

**Paul Rudd**

No, it would be-, I would just also eat them all year, and I don't want to be doing that, and so, there's that, and there are also these things that we have called Clodhoppers, that are like a chocolate, peanut butter, and pretzel mix.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, that's for me.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, they're insane. They're great. Those are two of my favourite things.

**Ed Gamble**

How often are you just dropping into the store to be like, 'Just checking in.'

**Paul Rudd**

Pretty often, I mean, yes, pretty often. Yes, it's fun, and everyone's in a good mood when they go into a candy store, it's nice, and it's nice to be in there too, because people come in, and kids will go in, and they're just so excited to be in there, and yes, everyone's in a good mood.

**Ed Gamble**

You're just in the corner eating everything.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

You've got to keep Negan away from them though. He's bad news. Negan's walking around with this baseball bat wrapped in barbed wire, and no one's having a fun time in the candy store then. You want to be careful.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. Steer clear. Sweetheart of a guy, but if he's got that bat in his hands. I laughed once because he was telling me, I think I told you this, where he would turn up as if he has to-, people want him to sign baseball bats all the time, at Comic Cons, and thinks like that, they always present a baseball bat, and



it's wrapped in barbed wire. So, he has to sign the narrow part of the bat, and his name's Jeffery Dean Morgan. It's not easy to do 100 times in a row.

**James Acaster**

So, your dream dessert, is not the sour Santa? It's something different.

**Paul Rudd**

No, no.

**Ed Gamble**

Did you buy the sweet shop before or after you played Bobby Sweethams?

**Paul Rudd**

I think it was after, maybe right after.

**James Acaster**

Sweethams led to it.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, it was-, I mean, I know-.

**Ed Gamble**

You were still in character. That was the problem.

**Paul Rudd**

You know what's interesting is the movie that I did where I was talking about with Jeffery Dean Morgan, he's in it briefly, it was a movie called They Came Together, it's with Amy Poehler, and it's, kind of, satirises these romantic comedies, and she owns a small sweet shop and I own-, I'm coming in to build a big candy conglomerate, like, a super corporate candy store, and you know, we fall in love. She doesn't know that I'm the guy behind the evil candy business, and that was before Sweethams. I can't escape the candy.

**James Acaster**

But this isn't candy, your dream dessert.

**Paul Rudd**

My dream dessert, no.

**James Acaster**

We could give you a little dish of sour Santas on the side if you want?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes, mainly because we want them.



**James Acaster**

Oh yes, and add some clodhoppers.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, add some Clodhoppers. By the way, I think the Clodhoppers would go well because my dream dessert would be the perfect slice of cheesecake.

**James Acaster**

Nice.

**Ed Gamble**

The perfect slice of cheesecake.

**Paul Rudd**

The perfect slice of cheesecake, yes.

**James Acaster**

Talk us through how it's perfect.

**Paul Rudd**

It's light. The crust is thick and, kind of, Graham Crackery, but not too-, it's, kind of, soft, but not too soft, and it's the difference between the crust and the cake itself, it's the right consistency, in my mouth.

**James Acaster**

You're absolutely Goldilocks with this one again.

**Ed Gamble**

We've never had an episode where the word consistency has been said so many times by the guest.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, well I'm consistent. Yes, here's the thing, I'm textural. You know, this is also part of the whole thing with the ketchup and the sauces. When I was really little, I used to like cucumbers. I loved cucumbers, but the middle part freaked me out, and so I'd have to cut out the seeds and I just go for the cumber. I don't want the-, and the middle part wasn't done, it was too larval stage, and it wasn't done cooking, and so-,

**Ed Gamble**

So, you see the middle as the cu.

**James Acaster**

The outside is the cumber.



**Paul Rudd**

Is the cumber, it's all cumber on the outside, and so, it's like, 'I can handle the cumber. In fact, are you going to eat your cumpers? I'll take those. You can have my cu.' Yes, it was just, in fact a plate of cu looks disgusting, it's like the inside of a pumpkin. You know, I got over that, thankfully, I got over that, and now I can eat the entire cucumber, and love the cucumber. I'm down with cu. That also sounds bad out of context, it makes me think of January 6th, but the consistency, the thing of, like-, it's like oysters, or something, I'm not crazy about that, yes.

**James Acaster**

So, you want a nice, crispy, but not too crispy base.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

And a rich-,

**Paul Rudd**

Yes a rich-, but, I really like a good cheesecake. It could be really high, like, in New York they do great ones.

**Ed Gamble**

Is this a baked cheesecake or, like, just cream cheese and stuff and put it in the fridge?

**Paul Rudd**

I think it might be that, that one, yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes because if it's got the biscuit-ey base.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Pretty creamy again.

**Paul Rudd**

And a cheesecake. Weird, right? Came to me later in life. As a kid I wouldn't go near it just because it's called a cheesecake. Like, that sounds-, that doesn't even sound like a dessert, that just sounds-

**Ed Gamble**

That's crazy.



**Paul Rudd**

But if I have, like, a cup of black coffee and a cheesecake, oh man.

**James Acaster**

We'll definitely give you a black coffee with it, for your dream dessert.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes it's, kind of, to have that together is really-, the problem is if I'm getting a cheesecake it's usually at a dinner and then I can't go with coffee because if I have coffee after five I'm up all night. So it's like, 'Alright I can do the decaf,' and I have, and I will, but now a lot of times it's like, 'I guess I'll take a mint tea.'

**Ed Gamble**

It's not the same is it, with the cheesecake?

**Paul Rudd**

It's not the same, no. It's not, it's really not. And I'll go with the decaf coffee I think if it's cheesecake.

**James Acaster**

But your dream meal we can take away the being up all night.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

I'm a genie so I can remove that.

**Paul Rudd**

I want a really strong, like, a good strong cup of black coffee and a cheesecake.

**James Acaster**

And I'm guessing, we haven't asked yet, but I'm guessing it's a vanilla cheesecake.

**Paul Rudd**

I don't know, it's a standard flavour. Some people put the raspberry coulis and all that stuff on, I don't want any of that.

**Ed Gamble**

Especially if you might get it mixed up with ketchup.

**James Acaster**

Oh imagine.



**Ed Gamble**

That would be a disaster.

**Paul Rudd**

That by the way, like, the ultimate nightmare. Ketchup on a cheesecake. Oh jeez. It's going to make me throw up. I'll be like Walt Niedner in a second.

**Ed Gamble**

We don't want to Walt you.

**James Acaster**

Old Niedner.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, I got, like, a full Niedner. Walt Niedner was so funny, I remember one time in college it was about three in the morning, we were living in a house, there were lots of, like, different rooms and stuff with a bunch of people in. No one was awake or anything, but I opened the door to Walt's room and he was just sitting on the floor reading a book and he looked up at me and his entire face was painted in Gene Simmons KISS make up. You know, Walt was, kind of, a little heavy set guy, he had glasses. I mean, he looked like his name. Walt Niedner. And he was the funniest, acerbic, smartest guy, but he was wearing his, kind of, giant Robert Ebert sized glasses. And he had a short temple of just blonde hair but he had also the little sprouted, like, ponytail on top like Gene Simmons. But it was to benefit no one. No one was awake, no one was around. And when I walked in he just, kind of, looked up at me, no expression on his face and I fell to the floor laughing. This is my kind of guy.

**Ed Gamble**

Niedner, I love Niedner.

**James Acaster**

I love Walt Niedner, get him on the pod as well.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, he'd be very entertaining.

**James Acaster**

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

**Paul Rudd**

Alright.

**James Acaster**

You'd like still water. Poppadoms or bread, you would like an unexpectedly hot roll with butter. Starter, Caesar salad, maybe with crispy bacon but you're not too fussed about that. Not too fishy, and the perfect amount of croutons up to the chef.



**Paul Rudd**

Yes. I love bacon. If it was my dream, I don't need the bacon. I'd go for the straight up Caesar.

**James Acaster**

Get rid of it. Just simple Caesar.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**James Acaster**

Main course, triopoly of mum's roast beef, so you've got your Yorkshire puddings, roast potatoes, green veg and your gravy. Side dish, thick cut chips. Drink, a pint of Guinness poured by the brew master. And dessert, the perfect slice of cheesecake, a black coffee and afterwards some sour Santas with clodhoppers.

**Paul Rudd**

Can we get this now? That's a great day right there.

**James Acaster**

That feels pretty good.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. It builds in the right way I'd say.

**Paul Rudd**

Oh good.

**Ed Gamble**

Because it's fresh and then roast dinner, cheesecake, clodhoppers. And then it's just, like, massive burnout at the end.

**Paul Rudd**

That's right. And the Guinness'll knock you out. I mean, that's going to be-, you're asleep by 8pm.

**James Acaster**

Also because you had the Caesar salad and so did Dan Aykroyd, do you want to finish your meal the same way that he did with a sativa blunt?

**Paul Rudd**

Was that his dream dessert?

**Ed Gamble**

Yes. That was one of his dream desserts. It's after everything. Sit around the fire with a sativa blunt, yes.



**Paul Rudd**

You know what? That gives sour Santas a run for their money. Although wouldn't you want that to be your appetizer? Because then a great meal just got even better.

**James Acaster**

Yes and then you can go to munch town.

**Paul Rudd**

Again, out of context. It's funny I was thinking back, and I am thinking back now of great meals in my life that I have had, and places that I've had them, and none of them made this podcast.

**James Acaster**

Yes it's weird, right?

**Paul Rudd**

Yes.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes nostalgia wins out I think sometimes.

**Paul Rudd**

There's just something about, I think, comfort. I had huevos rancheros in Santa Fe, New Mexico. They do a thing called Christmas, they give you red chillies and green chillies, on Christmas. And so this huevos rancheros, Christmas style and it was the most incredible breakfast I'd ever had. So it's not on the podcast but it was so good I did want to mention it.

**James Acaster**

Honourable munch-on. We've got an honourable munch-on.

**Paul Rudd**

Honourable munch-ons.

**Ed Gamble**

Also any time Christmas is mentioned you get excited because it's sour Santa time.

**James Acaster**

Sour Santa time.

**Paul Rudd**

That's right, yes.

**James Acaster**

You have to have thought that those sour Santas mixed in with those. The first time I met Paul was at a meal.



**Ed Gamble**

Can you be more specific about when you first met Paul because it makes me laugh?

**James Acaster**

Oh yes we went to see ABBA Voyage.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. What a great first date.

**James Acaster**

Good fun.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you for that.

**James Acaster**

Yes. And turned up, I sat next to you and I think the first thing I said was, 'Do you like sauce? I heard you don't like sauce,' immediately. 'I've been told you don't like sauce.'

**Ed Gamble**

I assumed you were behaving yourself on this job, but no.

**James Acaster**

I can't.

**Paul Rudd**

It's a weird thing, I get it. And you'd been wondering for now a few years.

**James Acaster**

But now we know. Now we know and we're so grateful.

**Paul Rudd**

Were you excited to know that you were going to get to really get the answer?

**James Acaster**

Well it was a thing of like, 'Hopefully I'll be able to get the answer.' You know, I hadn't met you before so I didn't know. I didn't know if I'd go, like, 'I heard you don't like sauce,' and you'd go like, 'Just fuck off man.' You know, I didn't know what kind of guy you were. You could be like, 'Fuck it, where have you heard that from? Aisling, oh she can fuck yourself.' So I didn't know what was going to happen.

**Ed Gamble**

I think if Paul had said something like that you would have heard that Paul had a rep already for it.



**James Acaster**

Someone would have already told me, yes. So I was excited to get to the bottom of it. I thought, 'Oh maybe if there's time if in the schedule we could do a podcast episode and the listeners can find out.' But if not I could just, you know, snitch on him on the podcast myself. But yes I was very excited to learn the answer to it all, because yes we didn't know. I mean, I'm very excited that we've finally answered a question of the podcast.

**Ed Gamble**

I think it sums it up really, like, it's not a yes or no answer. Life's complicated.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes, exactly. Not all things are black and white.

**Ed Gamble**

They're brown.

**Paul Rudd**

They're brown. My favourite sauce colour.

**James Acaster**

I went to the ABBA voyage and afterwards said to Paul, 'What did you think of that?' He said, 'Brilliant and we're all going to die.'

**Paul Rudd**

Yes I found it to be equal parts incredible and unsettling. And yes I watched that entire show and thought, 'Oh yes, no, this is the beginning of the end.'

**Ed Gamble**

Yes it's the end.

**Paul Rudd**

Actually the beginning of the end happened a while ago, but this is just further proof that yes we're all getting phased out.

**Ed Gamble**

Yes it's mad that ABBA is part of that realisation that it's the end of humanity.

**Paul Rudd**

Yes. It's fitting, in a way.

**Ed Gamble**

Like, when those robot army dogs came out, those videos, I was like, 'Well that makes sense, this feels like a film.' But now it's the holograms of ABBA, like, 'Oh my God.' I can't believe this is part of the end of human history.



**Paul Rudd**

And then it was, kind of, a fascinating case study because a song would end and the place would go crazy and applaud and you would think you're at a concert, and I just thought, 'They're all applauding this band as-, they're applauding a movie.' They don't know you're appreciating what they just did. It was weird. I thought the whole thing was super weird.

**James Acaster**

Whenever they would give speeches, the band members would give speeches, that was the weirdest. Because obviously it's all pre-programmed in and one of them's talking at one point, says something and goes, 'I heard a bit of a sarcastic laugh over here.' And then carries on, it's like, 'What?'

**Paul Rudd**

Oh Bjorn.

**Ed Gamble**

Well, it seems like a sad note to end the podcast on, that it's the end of humanity, but there we go.

**Paul Rudd**

Look, we're all going to eat great meals as we're, you know, taking that last dip in the pool and we can only celebrate. We can celebrate the music of ABBA, we can celebrate fine meals and friendship and laughter.

**Ed Gamble**

And to the listener, Paul Rudd has never been here, that was AI. The whole thing was AI.

**James Acaster**

The whole thing was a hologram.

**Paul Rudd**

Absolutely right, I'm here. Exactly right. And now for Waterloo.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you so much for coming to the dream restaurant Paul.

**James Acaster**

Thanks Paul.

**Paul Rudd**

Thank you.

**Ed Gamble**

There we are, the Off Menu menu of Paul Rudd, James.



**James Acaster**

Mystery solved.

**Ed Gamble**

Mystery solved. He's saucy and naughty.

**James Acaster**

Yes. He does like sauce but he doesn't like ketchup, mustard or mayonnaise.

**Ed Gamble**

Done. And he didn't put ants on his menu which was a relief.

**James Acaster**

No we didn't have to kick him out, we appreciate that Paul, thank you very much. And, you know, what a lovely way to end series ten.

**Ed Gamble**

Thank you so much to Paul Rudd for coming into the dream restaurant. We'll be back soon with another guest.

**James Acaster**

I imagine in exactly a week's time from when this has been released.

**Ed Gamble**

Unless next series.

**James Acaster**

Or next series.

**Ed Gamble**

Don't forget to grab a copy of my book, Glutton, the multi course life of a very greedy boy.

**James Acaster**

And make sure you go and watch the new Ghostbusters film starring me and also Paul Rudd.

**Ed Gamble**

It's called, 'Ghostbusters, James Boocaster.'

**James Acaster**

Boo kids. Don't be scared. Bye. Oh man, I'm getting fired for that.