

**Dish: Ep 8 20 July 2022**

**Actor and comedian Michelle de Swarte and roast lamb with lemon chickpeas**

Just so you know our podcast may contain the occasional mild swear word or adult theme.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:00:00] Hello, I'm Nick Grimshaw.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:00:01] And I'm Angela Hartnett.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:00:02] And together we are...

**Angela Hartnett** [00:00:04] Angela and Nick. Yeah!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:00:07] Welcome to Dish, from Waitrose, the podcast that celebrates the best things in life really: eating, drinking, and great conversation.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:00:15] Every week we welcome a famous face.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:00:17] For Michelin Star meal.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:00:19] That's right. Now let's get started Mister.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:00:22] What are we having today?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:00:23] So we've got lamb leg steaks, which I'm going to do with a lovely chickpea and tomato, I suppose, ragu really?

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:00:29] Oh, yum.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:00:30] Yeah lovely.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:00:30] Cook it all together.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:00:31] Well, tomatoes already in the oven, slowly cooking down. A bit of lemon on there, garlic, olive oil. And when they come out, toss the chickpeas in with them so they'll be slightly warmed, finish it with loads of basil. Steak, I've got resting and then we're good to go. You can put a little bit of lemon zest on the chickpeas, it will be nice to have that. But what we've put in the tomatoes is actually the rind. Like you know, when we did it with Paul Feig and we had to do that lemon rind.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:00:54] Oh, like what you'd have in a cocktail?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:00:56] Exactly. So I've put that in there with...

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:00:58] Yep.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:00:59] With our tomatoes, but it'd be nice to have a little bit of extra zest on there. And we're going to use some of your parsley that you didn't use-

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:01:05] Oh, yeah.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:01:06] In there as well. And basil, you know, it's all about sort of mixing things up, adding a little bit of this, that and the other.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:01:11] This is a really nice summery recipe, this isn't it.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:01:14] Exactly.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:01:15] What lamb cut have we gone for?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:01:18] Ahh I love you, with your lamb cuts: a leg, leg a lamb leg steak. So it's a working bit of meat if you like. It needs to be cooked medium rather than rare. The thing is, you know, everyone you said came in going 'I want my meat rare,' but you wouldn't have a lamb leg rare because it's a tougher cut of meat cause it's working.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:01:35] Oh, right.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:01:35] So you need to cook it longer. And like a fillet where it is in the body of a, you know, like a beef in a cow, it does nothing, you know, so it's protected. So that's why it's so tender you see.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:01:46] Oh so that's why you want it pink so you can taste that softness.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:01:47] Yeah. Cause there's nothing to do with it. Exactly.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:01:50] Whereas a muscle...

**Angela Hartnett** [00:01:51] A muscle.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:01:52] It's been working.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:01:52] You see, would we want these muscles? No!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:01:54] No way.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:01:55] Yeah you know, they've been working hard.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:01:56] Look at those. Wow.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:02:01] Yeah it looks like you're perspiring.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:02:21] Did you see my pizza?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:02:23] I did see your pizza. It looked amazing!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:02:26] Your comment as well.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:02:28] Oh yeah. A few people had a go at me about that one.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:02:30] I posted on my Instagram. We tried to make the garlic bread for Ed Gamble. The dough didn't get here in time.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:02:36] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:02:36] So we got to take the dough home.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:02:38] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:02:38] So I rolled it out and I had to contact you how many times? I was like Angela! It keeps springing back!

**Angela Hartnett** [00:02:44] Angela! I think I was at an awards ceremony, and I went to the loo and I suddenly saw all these messages. I thought, oh my God, I said just keep rolling it, it'll be fine.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:02:52] Yeah so we rolled it out, that happened, got it in the oven, hot as possible. I didn't do the cheese and Marmite, as we discussed with Ed. But what I did do was, made garlic butter-

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:03] Lovely.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:03] Put that on. That's just garlic and butter. Easy. Put that on, a bit of cheese. Got it out. Put on some nice chilli sauce.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:12] Okay yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:13] Some fresh parsley, banging.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:15] It looked really good I have to say. It looked very good.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:17] So good, I never felt prouder.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:19] Oh, well done.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:20] So I had to put it on my main grid Instagram post.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:23] Yes.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:24] I felt like it was my baby.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:29] It didn't feel like my baby. Hey, speaking of babies!

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:31] Yes?

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:32] Our guest today is in a show called The Baby, which is one of the most talked about shows of the year.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:38] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:38] We watched it on Gogglebox and then I had to watch it...

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:42] The whole thing? Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:43] Properly. It's nuts. So she's the star of that, but she's done so much in her life. She's been a journalist, model, stand up comedian.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:49] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:49] I think this is only her second acting gig.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:52] Pretty impressive. Can't wait.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:54] Very impressive. Shall we get her in?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:03:55] Yes. Let's go.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:03:57] Please welcome today's guest, the wonderful, the super talented Michelle de Swarte everybody. Welcome to Dish!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:04:08] Thank you.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:04:09] This is our kitchen.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:04:10] This is our kitchen indeed.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:04:11] It's fancy, I like it.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:04:12] Yeah?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:04:12] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:04:13] This is Angela Hartnett.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:04:14] Hiya!

**Angela Hartnett** [00:04:16] Ooh loving your hair.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:04:16] It's giving Patsy. Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:04:17] Is it?

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:04:17] Yeah. Proper. Are you hungry?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:04:20] No, I'm actually fine. I'm stuffed.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:04:21] Ah well thanks for coming!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:04:24] Michelle, thank you for joining us.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:04:26] You're so welcome.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:04:27] Angela is going to be serving up some food in a moment.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:04:30] In a moment. Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:04:30] But first, we've got to talk about The Baby because I feel like every now and then a TV show comes along that everyone's talking about and The Baby is that show. Tell us about how you got offered this role and how it was pitched for you, because I've watched it and it's nuts.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:04:44] I know!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:04:45] Like it's mad.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:04:45] Can I just say? All right, so seeing you guys on Gogglebox, watching the show was like, nothing has confirmed to my family that I'm doing all right more than that. They're just like 'you're on Gogglebox, you made it.' I said yeah, yeah, yeah. I'm on

it because I did this show. And the show's on Gogglebox. They're like, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, whatevs.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:05:07] So it's a dark comedy horror and it's centred around motherhood and how I got the show was I was doing stand up gigs, not stood up, in lockdown over Zoom, which is as awful as it sounds.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:05:20] Ooh how was that?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:05:21] Yeah. Imagine being in the kitchen in your Js, trying to tell jokes into your laptop while other people are watching you on a gallery and in between they just think I'm just going to go toilet now. But their mics on, or they think I'm just going to make a smoothie. So you're like, you know, baring your soul and someone's like... It was, so anyway, so we were doing that and I started doing loads of them. And one of the Zoom, corporate Zoom gigs I was doing was for the casting director, Aisha Bywaters, her husband, her partner was watching. So she happened to be watching me, trying to be hilarious from my kitchen and was like, 'Oh, that's Natasha.' They sent the scripts to my agent and then I got it and I was like I'm having that.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:06:05] Yeah, I'm having that!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:06:06] I thought I'm having that. Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:06:07] But like when it was written down, when we watched it on Gogglebox, they said to us... They don't give you any info because they want your reactions to be, to be real. So, like, it's a comedy.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:06:17] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:06:17] When it started I was like, it's not very funny, so far. The start is like so dark. And then when I watched it, I was like oh it is a comedy! And then when I watched it with my boyfriend, because we watched it after we'd watched it on Gogglebox, I was like, it's a comedy. He was like, this is a comedy? And I'm like, it gets funny after the...



**Michelle de Swarte** [00:06:33] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:06:34] The cliffs!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:06:35] I think, I think, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:06:37] It gets funny.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:06:38] Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:06:39] But as an opener...

**Angela Hartnett** [00:06:40] Not so funny.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:06:41] No!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:06:41] Right.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:06:43] Well, I think a lot of the comedy in it is played because it's so tense. Do you know what I mean? And there's such a build up that you want that palate cleanser of laughter. So it kind of gets so surreal and Natasha is so deadpan with her delivery that you're like, I can't believe she just said that. Us Brits get it a bit more I think.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:07:02] We're like that in life though don't think in the worst situation...

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:07:05] Exactly!

**Angela Hartnett** [00:07:06] You get the giggles.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:07:06] Yeah.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:07:06] You know, something happens. You just think it's so inappropriate. But that's what you do, don't you?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:07:11] Well, as Brits, we don't know how to process emotions. So, you know, our go-to is like, shall we laugh through this and bond through laughter?

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:07:18] How much of it hit home in terms of everyone having babies around you? Because I'm like 37 and now this is the age where everyone's like having babies or having their second baby and there's a lot of baby chat amongst my friends. Do you guys have it as well where there's a lot of baby chat and Natasha, the character Michelle plays who's like not really into the baby chat.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:07:41] I can relate to certain aspects of that. What I think The Baby does well is it sort of shows everyone's point of view, everyone's perspective on the spectrum of like motherhood and late thirties and you know, even beyond that. I think, you know, you just got to adapt do you know what I mean? Or ghost your friend for like the first year.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:08:02] Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:08:03] Wait for spring, oh is it their first birthday? I'd love to come. Come heavy handed with the presents to make up for the fact that you haven't really checked in on them for the last year.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:08:13] Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:08:13] And hopefully you can like try to salvage some remnants of friendship.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:08:17] Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:08:18] Yeah. Or be involved.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:08:20] Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:08:21] You know, what I mean, you decide!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:08:24] I liked what you were saying, Angela, the other week. When you go to your friend's, their kids want to see you.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:08:29] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:08:29] And she's like, nah, Angela's here to see me!

**Angela Hartnett** [00:08:32] Yeah. Think you got to have your boundaries. Because I'm a bit like you, I had all my friends, girlfriends, they all had kids young. And I don't have kids at all. And it's like I don't want to see your kids. I love your kids. But I come in day off, I want to see you. And you just got to say.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:08:46] Yeah.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:08:47] And then politely leave when the kids...

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:08:49] The kids are like I want to see Angela.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:08:50] I'm like nah sorry. I like kids now when they're like, young adults, I'd take them out for dinner.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:08:55] I don't mind some of my friend's kids and it's quite nice to hang out with them. What I have said is like I'm not being Godparent to any more kids. Don't ask. The answer's no.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:09:05] No. We're full.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:06] Yeah. And I think that when you haven't got kids, your friends in pity go, I'm going to gift you with this title of being a godparent. And you're like, No.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:09:16] Are you a good godparent?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:17] I mean what is a good godparent? Just throw in money at the situation. Yeah.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:09:22] See I'm a really bad one. I don't even throw money. I mean, I'm really rubbish as a godparent.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:26] What you do?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:09:27] Not a lot really.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:28] Nothing.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:09:29] That's, do you know what, I'm terrible, really am the worst.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:09:31] Took the title and ran.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:09:32] Yeah, pretty much. Yeah. So you're really good compared to me?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:36] Yeah. Yeah, it sounds like anyone's really good compared to you, to be honest.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:09:41] How was it, Michelle, working with a baby?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:44] It was a joy.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:09:45] Was it?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:46] No.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:46] No I'm joking.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:09:48] I was gonna say, said no one ever.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:49] No, no, no. Do you know what, it was I love the babies. And so, I mean, I couldn't not because I worked with them so much.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:09:57] So it's two babies playing one baby?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:58] Twins.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:09:59] Twins.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:09:59] Twins. Really-

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:10:00] You could have just had any baby really, they all look the same.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:10:03] No, no. You know what? I just got to know them really well and the mum and dad, so, like, we bonded. Yeah, we did. It was just their second birthday last weekend, actually which I went down to.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:10:13] Did you?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:10:14] Yeah. And I was kind of, I can't lie, I didn't think I was going to feel like that. I thought when filming finished, I thought I was just going to be like, see you later!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:10:23] See you baby!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:10:23] Yeah. Hope life goes well. Bye bye. Ta-ta.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:10:27] And then actually, I found myself on Instagram, like, looking at their pictures a bit like longingly, like, oh, look, they've got hair now. Oh, look at their matching outfits. And then I did a gig and Mum and Dad came, in Brighton, and they were like, I said, "Oh here's some Easter eggs for the boys." And they were like, you know their second birthday's coming up, I said Yes!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:10:47] Yes, I'll be there!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:10:48] Yes, I'll be there!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:10:50] We're going to have some wine. We're going to go for this chilled red, a fleurie from Waitrose, which they've paired with the meal that Angela's cooked. How do you feel about a chilled red?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:11:00] I mean. Yeah, go and then.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:11:01] Yeah? Give it a go? Please be honest. I quite like it. I remember my friend brought it round to mine a few years ago once and I was like, she's lost it. I was like, she's mad.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:11:12] Do you know what? This is the kind of thing that I'd make a massive faux pas where like, someone would go, Oh, and I'll be like... Well they're bit common aren't they? Putting red in the fridge alright babes yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:11:24] I remember my first dinner party.

I took my mum to a restaurant where they served it chilled and like my mum's like from Manchester, she came down to a restaurant, bit of a trendy East End one and she still talks about it. It was like six years ago and every time we go past that, that's the road where the restaurant is, where they sold the red wine cold. I'm like it's a thing! She tells everyone constantly.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:11:47] Thank you so much.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:11:49] Ooh, yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:11:50] This looks amazing.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:11:51] Thank you.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:11:53] Yeah I remember getting my mum to eat calamari, by telling her it was an onion ring.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:12:01] How'd that go down?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:12:02] Yeah, she wasn't gassed.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:12:07] Well cheers, guys. Thank you, Angela.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:12:09] Cheers.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:12:10] Thanks for coming Michelle. Congratulations on your success.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:12:13] Congrats on The Baby. It sounds like you've had a baby.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:12:18] So we got roasted lamb leg steaks with a chickpea tomato salad and some basil and mint.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:12:24] Hmm. This looks good Angela.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:12:25] Little bit of spice in that, I think. Little bit of spice.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:12:28] Little bit spice.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:12:29] Are you into your food, Michelle?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:12:30] Yeah.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:12:30] Yeah? Cook a lot or eat out a lot? I like that face. That's very good. You know, she's loving that good. I want more faces like that from you Nick. Bit more appreciation wouldn't go amiss.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:12:44] I like a roast chickpea.



**Michelle de Swarte** [00:12:45] I'm not going to lie when I first came in, I thought, that's a lot of corn.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:12:48] So do you cook at home Michelle?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:12:52] You know what? Last night, because I knew I was going to be here today. I looked at what I was eating and I thought, you're taking absolute liberties Michelle, because I was listening to the podcast episode with Ed.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:13:04] Oh, yeah, yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:13:05] Who I love.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:13:05] Love Ed Gamble. And he's a big food fan, a proper foodie.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:13:10] He is.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:13:11] And cooks a lot. Mr. Barbecue. Anyway, it's not about him, what were you eating?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:13:16] I was eating pasta with pesto. And my favourite thing that I like to add to the pasta and the pesto that makes me think I'm such a chef is tomatoes.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:13:29] That's all right!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:13:30] Yeah that's all right, I've done that one.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:13:32] That is my number one meal. I have been eating it for years. If you cut me open that is, it would be like a maple tree. It's just that.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:13:43] Just oozing pesto.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:13:44] Yeah. No sap. Just pesto. It is shocking. Like, I have no desire to cook, it doesn't bring me joy, but I love eating. But I just, I'm not good at it, and I don't love it but I so appreciate you making this delicious meal. But me on my own, I'm like, I could just have a sandwich. And then I wouldn't be hungry.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:14:07] Yeah, when you're on your own... I never cook for myself. I never ever cook for myself. Even when it's me and my boyfriend, I'm like... But any guests, I will. So maybe I just like showing off.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:14:19] Oh, so you're a good cook then because no one in my family would want me to cook for them. They're like, you've got money. Order us.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:14:31] I love that!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:14:32] Order us food.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:14:33] What do I fancy? I'll invite Michelle round and then I'll have a curry.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:14:37] Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Exactly. Like, like order us food. So this is amazing. And I know that this is like sponsored by Waitrose isn't it?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:14:46] Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:14:46] And that is like. Yes, thank you Waitrose, without you, I'd be nothing. Do you know what I mean? That's what I like to do like walk round a nice supermarket and just be like, yeah, get it out the oven, peel off the plastic and go, you're welcome body. Do you know what I mean, just like, yeah, add a little something on top. Just be like, look at me! Yeah little dollop of pesto, get the nice pepper grinder out.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:15:12] Yes chef!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:15:13] You made it. You made it.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:15:17] Look at those acting skills!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:15:19] Why don't we get Michelle every week to do the best, like microwave meal?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:15:23] I would love to.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:15:24] This week I'm serving and you peel the plastic off in three minutes.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:15:28] Yeah. Just like do a Nigella like slowly pierce the plastic. Oh, oh, oh. Today I've got a three-pronged fork out but I thought I'd pierce it six times just to shake it up. Yeah, exactly. Sit on the side while the microwave hums.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:15:47] Oh. It's ready, don't want to burn my fingers.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:15:53] That is so good. I think we found the new voice of Waitrose.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:15:56] I know, come on. What was it like when you were growing up? Because Brixton's such a cultural hub, did you remember, like, going out for, like, good food and great dinners there?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:16:03] Yeah. Yeah. I mean, my family lived there, so most of the food that I was eating from my gran and stuff like that, my sister, is Jamaican food and it's the same food that you would buy in Brixton at that time. Like all the food shops were

Jamaican food shops and bloody amazing. Like so good. And like, now, if I go to Brixton, I'll go to like fish wings and tings, which is in, like Brixton Village, where you can get like, you know, some nice food, like a curry goat, rice and peas, mac and cheese, coleslaw, just something light, you know.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:16:36] Just a light snack.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:16:37] Yeah, just a light nibble. But yeah. And now, you know, now Brixton obviously has changed. And now it's a lot of what I just call like the beans in ramekins. Do you know what I mean? When you start like eating fry ups and like the beans move to ramekins, you're like-.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:16:53] It's changed,

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:16:54] It's happening. It's happening. Is this free tomato still on the vine? It's happening. Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:17:03] But when you were a kid as well around Brixton, I heard that you were like mad into your clothes, like, your sense of style was very strong.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:17:10] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:17:11] What were you wearing when you were little?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:17:12] In my teenage years, it was definitely like a time where dancehall music was having a big moment. This is in the nineties, so I was into like getting ready for carnival. Like now how my middle class friends treat Glastonbury and stuff like that, like really getting excited. Or like you know when your mates are like, I'm going Burning Man, I'm off to the haberdashery shop. See you in a week. And you're like all right, cool.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:17:40] That's how we would like gear up to go to Carnival. So we'd start talking about it after Christmas. And like, at that time, the dancehall scene was so massive and we were so creative. Now it's nice to see that a lot of the hairstyles and stuff

are coming back into fashion. But I mean, hair alone, just like sequins stuck to my hair. A lot of them. A lot of, just a lot of brown lip liner, a lot of like what we used to call click suits at the time, you know, just like string vests with boob tubes underneath and a lot of hair gel. Like this was the first wave of sticking baby hairs down to your face. First gen baby.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:18:18] Yeah, first gen!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:18:20] First gen baby hair stick off. It was like, yeah, you just like you would do it at night, set it, and just like, go to bed, sleeping like a geisha girl with like five bandanas around your head until like the vein in the middle of your forehead pops out. And that, and that's when you would wake up, do you know what I mean? Just with a pumping headache and you're like, my hair is ready now.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:18:41] Yes, I have a migraine.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:18:43] What about when you were a teenager Angela? What was your look?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:18:49] Oh God what was I?

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:18:50] Did you have like look, cause I remember when as a teenager, you're so dedicated to your look weren't you? That's who I am.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:18:55] Whereas now you're like...

**Angela Hartnett** [00:18:56] I was in that New Romantic thing weren't we? We were like Spandau, Duran Duran, you know, Puffy sort of thing. But I remember never being into makeup, well I'm not into makeup now. But like everyone, when they're 14, 15, suddenly just so much makeup. And to me it just felt like bother. I was like, I can't be dealing with that, but it's just so I never really got into makeup ever in my life. I've never done it. It's never been my thing.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:19:18] But you have pictures of you dressed in like new romantic looks?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:19:21] I've got the worst picture ever when I tried to do makeup, I'm really crap at it where I've got, like, greeny blue eyeshadow.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:19:28] Oh, my God.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:19:29] I mean, it just, it's just one of those photos that has to die, you know? It's just embarrassing.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:19:34] I think the listeners would like to see that.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:19:36] Do you think so?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:19:37] The listeners?

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:19:38] Yeah, I think the listeners would like to see it.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:19:39] I'll bring that in.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:19:40] It'd be nice to go on Instagram I think maybe next week.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:19:42] Exactly. Next week. Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:19:43] So was you really into hair then?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:19:45] Well, I remember thinking I never used to dry my hair, but it would dry naturally and it would do a flip. So we'd always go to this place in Seven Kings, which was the Shannon Club, cause we all grew up in Essex. And our first point is you get

the train there, but all the blokes would drive home and you never wanted to get the night bus. So my first mission every time I got in was to do all this and basically secure a lift home.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:20:07] Whoa.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:20:08] So without any ties or no attachment. So I'd go in and I'll go like flirt, I'd go Nick I've got us a lift home, ignore the bloke all night until it was lift time about 1:30. Go hi, we're ready for our lift home, by the way, I've got two friends with me. That was always our Friday night.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:20:24] Angela wow! Wow Angela.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:20:27] Nicola Sears, I'll name you there, name and shame. She was my, you know, companion in that little trick that we used to do.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:20:36] Yeah, yeah. I love that. Securing the ride home.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:20:43] And then good night.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:20:44] Good night.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:20:45] Just from the power of your eighties hair. Love that.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:20:53] I'd like to see the look you had when you were young. You've got a great, the bone structure you've got good, you know, I think it would be amazing.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:21:00] I'll be honest with you, it weren't looking like this, then. Do you know what I mean? It was a lot of, like, Body Shop bronzing balls. Just like, I'd get my face and just chuck it in there. Move the bronzing balls around you, doused myself in like white musk.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:21:18] Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:21:19] You know, use Impulse as deodorant, and be like I'm good to go.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:21:23] Oh my God I forgot about Impulse. The whole body. Over the clothes.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:21:28] Yeah. Oh, yeah. And also, I'd do it after smoking loads of fags. Oh, you know what's going to mask this smell? A more disgusting smell.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:21:40] So how did you go from there to modelling? Come on. You've jumped around.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:21:44] Yeah. So I got scouted. I was like a bartender in Clapham and, um, and they were like, would you like to model? You know, like you're pulling pints of bitter, you're like and leave all of this? No, I'm going to stay. Yeah. No, thanks, mate. So, did you say New York? How dare you? How dare you? I'm going to stay here and listen to these dad jokes with the locals. Thanks.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:22:11] When the first approach happened, did you believe them? Like when someone was like, Hi, I can take you to New York to be a model. Were you like skeptical or?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:22:20] That sounds dodgy.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:22:20] Yeah, it does sound dodgy doesn't it?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:22:21] Yeah. I think at that point in my late teens, sort of like, you know, the nineties in south London. It sounded all right, mate. As dodgy things go I was like yeah, we'll work it out when we're there innit.



**Nick Grimshaw** [00:22:37] And how was it arriving in New York? Like have you ever been there before?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:22:40] I'd never been before. And when I was there, I was-

**Angela Hartnett** [00:22:45] So how old were you excuse me?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:22:45] I was, I'd just turned 20.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:22:47] That's quite young to go there without anyone sort of thing.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:22:50] Yeah, but you know what, at that time that was a really late age to start modelling actually. Because I started modelling at 19, I went to South Africa for a few months, didn't make a penny, and then they were like, go to New York. And I was like, all right then. I didn't think I was going to be there for that long. Cause I didn't think I was going to make any money. But I got there and I was quite underwhelmed, to be honest, but I was quite moody, do you know what I mean?

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:23:13] Like rubbish. Big Apple? Whatever.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:23:14] Literally, literally. I remember them being like, do you want to come to this party? And I was like, South Park was really big at the time and I was just like, no. I want to sit in my flat and watch South Park, like do you know what I mean? They're like P.Diddy's got a white party, do you want to come to the Hamptons? I was like to do what? No!

**Angela Hartnett** [00:23:35] Big screen with South Park, maybe.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:23:38] Yeah, yeah! No, I'm gonna stay here and sit in East Village, have a little mooch around and watch South Park, sit on the roof, have a smoke, do you

know what I mean. Good times. Yeah, yeah. I had like a BMX and I was just like I was going to, like, ride down to the river and, like, listen to Fiona Apple and feel really moody.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:23:57] I love that. On the BMX?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:24:00] Yeah!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:24:00] I love that image.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:24:00] Yeah, yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:24:02] I love that. And was work good then? Did you like love doing it, or were you not...

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:24:06] I wouldn't say I loved it, but I did really well really quickly, so I made a lot of money. Do you know what I mean? So I was a bit like but you know, I didn't grow up with money, so there wasn't any difference. To me, having money was being able to go into a sandwich shop and get a sandwich with meat in it. Do you know what I mean? You know, like go into Greggs and go in and have a steak bake thanks. Do you know what I mean, none of this cheese and onion stuff, thank you. Yeah, I sort of just bought all my family loads of trainers and stuff like that and I was just like, you get a pair of Timbs, you get a pair of Timbs, you get a pair of Timbs. But yeah, I enjoyed it in terms of the freedom, but the job itself, I didn't love. It was kind of ridiculous. It was ridiculous.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:24:45] Were you in like proper ridiculous situations on shoots and at fashion shows where you're like...

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:24:48] Absolutely, absolutely. Yeah. Yeah. Some person comes in and puts like a kestrel on your head and they're like work it, work it, work it! And you're just like, what am I doing?

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:25:00] I love that you went into that with that mindset, though and like your personality.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:25:04] You must have thrown them in New York because they couldn't have coped with that I imagine. For someone who was quite, not rebellious, but just sort of pushed back a little bit.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:25:12] Yeah, no, it was all right. It was all right. And I think it did me well because afterwards I think if I didn't keep my sense of self and sense of humour about it, I probably wouldn't have ended up doing stand-up after.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:25:23] That must be a world first. Like how did you do that crossover?

**Angela Hartnett** [00:25:26] In New York, did you do it?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:25:27] Yeah.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:25:28] And that would be hard.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:25:29] Well, you know, it was, because New York sort of boosts up your confidence and having a job like modelling, you get like loads of credit for naturally not doing much and it inflates your sense of self. So you know, like if, when you're a model if you say, like...

**Angela Hartnett** [00:25:43] I'm going to be President.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:25:44] Literally! Yeah, yeah. You get that American go on, yes, you can! Do you know what I mean? If I was in England, I'd never have tried because your mates'd be like you what? You go nah, sorry I wouldn't even bother.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:25:54] You're absolutely right, that is the thing about Americans. They're so get up, you know. Yeah they'll go for it.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:25:57] Yeah. And they, they hold beauty at such high regard that you start thinking you like fancy, do you know what I mean? They're like even if you've got basic manners out there and as a model, they go, you're so polite and you're not, you're just saying thank you and please. And they're like, wow. Yeah. And so that people always go oh my god you're so funny. But what I didn't realise is that was funny in modelling, right. But like so I thought I was funnier than I was basically. And then when I started doing stand up I was like, you got some work to do.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:26:28] You were like Seinfeld in modelling.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:26:31] Oh my god in modelling I was like Dave Chappelle. I would say like the most basic of jokes. And they were like, she has some personality. And I thought I was like, Mr. Charisma. Yeah. And then I started stand-up and I was like, you mean my looks mean nothing? Yeah, they hold no currency. Yeah, I just, like, stand on stage and like bomb and I'll be like can someone put on a wind machine please?

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:26:58] Watch this.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:26:59] Yeah, yeah. These jokes really aren't landing but I feel like if the lighting was better. Yeah, so it was, it was a lesson, but it was good, man. It was a nice a nice palate cleanser.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:27:09] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:27:10] Did you meet any models that were dead funny?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:27:12] Yeah, there are some models that are well funny, but when we were modelling, they didn't want you to have a personality. Like, remember when you first heard Kate Moss talk? Right. Exactly. We're from that era.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:27:23] Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:27:23] Now, every model you see has got to have Instagram followers, and they've got a personality attached to it. But, I was there in the glory years.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:27:31] Yeah, the enigmas.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:27:32] Yeah in the glory years when you just had to like, just smile and look dead in the eye.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:27:37] Yeah.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:27:38] Pick up your cheque at the end and be like thank you.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:27:41] Are you touring now because you know you've been doing The Baby and you're writing a new screenplay...

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:27:45] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:27:46] Are you fitting in touring in between all that as well?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:27:48] Yeah. Well tour I mean I've been gigging, I was just supporting Katherine Ryan on her tour and then my tour starts in 2023. So tickets go on sale at the end of this month.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:28:01] Oh, amazing, we've gotta go, we've gotta go and watch.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:28:04] Do you do Edinburgh, have you ever done that?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:28:05] I have done enough Edinburghs.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:28:07] That, that's it, done, not going there.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:28:09] Do you know what? I do, I do like Edinburgh. It is fun. It's like one giant mufty day. But I'm going to go up just to, like, I don't know, for morale. Probably, like week three. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Exactly. Just be like, don't be sad, be happy. Comedy is great, you know, tragedy versus time. Comedy! Yeah, yeah, yeah, exactly. Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:28:33] I feel like you've done so much, Michelle, in your life. Modelling, acting, stand up. Weren't you a journalist as well, used to make films right?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:28:40] Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:28:41] Is there anything that you still want to do? Is there anything in your brain you're like, ah I did want to do that. I should do that now.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:28:47] Do you know what? Actually save my money and buy a house.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:28:49] Yeah, that's a good one.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:28:50] Do you know what I mean? Not, like, celebrate by going into Liberty's and just going I'll have all them bags thanks. Do you know what I mean? Rolling round Waitrose just like, oh, what are you going to get? Ah go on, oh you slice the watermelon for me? I couldn't possibly do it myself. Do you know what I'm saying so like, yeah, the next thing I want to do, the Nick and Ange is like, buy a house.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:29:14] Get a house!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:29:15] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:29:16] So you did the tour with Katherine Ryan.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:29:17] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:29:17] And you were in The Duchess with Katherine Ryan.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:29:19] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:29:20] Well, that was your first acting job.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:29:22] Yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:29:22] That's mad.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:29:23] I know.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:29:24] Cause you were dead good in it.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:29:24] And, you know, thank you. You know, probably why it was right, it came just at the right time because I'd just finished Edinburgh Festival and it was a slog. I did The Free Fringe. I thought I was going to be in one room and they went, that room's closed, but don't worry, we've got another venue. And I thought, it's Edinburgh, you've got a castle, there's nothing new here. Where's this new room appearing from? And they said it's in a place called 'the lock up' and it'd been used to store cheese and so it smelt...

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:29:49] No.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:29:50] Humming!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:29:50] It smelt like, you know, when you take off your Spanx after a long hot wedding?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:29:56] So, so after that I felt, I was a bit low and I had a moment sitting on a coach, right. Because I was doing really well at the time. So I was like sat on a coach looking out the window, just thinking, you're alright Mich you're going to be 40 soon, do you know what I mean? And then my phone pinged and it was like, will try out for this audition and I just like looked up to the sky and I thought you better. Tried out for it, did a chemistry read, yeah with the lovely Katherine and got the show.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:30:23] How was the chemistry read?

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:30:25] We were doing this serious scene and she just kept on laughing and I was thinking, like I'm giving it my all. You know, especially when you don't know about acting, you're like, she's taking the actual mick? And then when we left, she said, because I was the last person to be cast. And she said she was laughing because she was so relieved that they'd finally found the right person to play Bev. Yeah, yeah. So no, the chemistry read went well and she's just a great person to shoot with. Do you know what I mean, she's so fun.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:30:55] And then you work with some people and they're like, should we do it again? I bet Katharine's like it's done let's go!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:30:59] Oh, my God.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:31:00] Like I bet she's decisive.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:31:01] She literally is! And then sometimes I'd be like, she'd rewrite the lines, and I'd go, I don't know them. She'd go, don't worry, we'll know them by the end of the day cause we'll do so many takes, we'll know them by then. I was like...

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:31:09] Amazing.



**Michelle de Swarte** [00:31:10] The best boss ever!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:31:11] Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:31:14] I bet, I bet. Well, Michelle, thank you for coming round to eat.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:31:17] Thank you for having me.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:31:18] And congrats on everything. Congrats on The Baby. It's mega.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:31:22] Thanks. Yeah.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:31:24] Feel like we've not done anything in our lives, look how much she's done.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:31:26] I know, me too.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:31:27] It's so weird that you say that because, you know, for me, I'm just like oh sort it out Mich. And now you're like, she's done so much! And I'm like good!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:31:35] She's only done acting, modelling, stand-up...

**Angela Hartnett** [00:31:36] Journalism.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:31:38] Eating this here meal.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:31:40] Yeah. That's a highlight.

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:31:41] Yeah, highlight for me, everything was leading up to this!

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:31:45] This is it, the pinnacle!

**Michelle de Swarte** [00:31:47] Exactly yeah. Chickpeas that I thought was corn because I'm cultured.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:31:52] Michelle thank you so much. Michelle everybody! Thank you.

**Angela Hartnett** [00:31:59] Thank you.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:31:59] That was fun!

**Angela Hartnett** [00:32:02] Follow Dish from Waitrose wherever you get your podcasts. And why not leave us a review on Spotify and Apple Podcasts? Go on. We'd love to hear what you think of us.

**Nick Grimshaw** [00:32:12] Only if you liked it, don't lie. Have you ever wanted to ask Angela Hartnett a food related question? Well, now you can. You can get some Michelin Star advice by emailing [dish@waitrose.co.uk](mailto:dish@waitrose.co.uk)

**Angela Hartnett** [00:32:24] All the recipes and drinks can be found on the Waitrose website at [waitrose.com/dishrecipes](https://www.waitrose.com/dishrecipes)