

Dish – Saoirse-Monica Jackson, the best lasagne and a rosé

NICK GRIMSHAW: This podcast may contain some strong language and adult themes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh hello, and welcome to Dish from Waitrose. I'm Nick Grimshaw.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And I'm Angela Hartnett.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Hey, and welcome to 2024 everybody.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Someone's big birthday this year, isn't it?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, not for a while.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No, but it's still...

NICK GRIMSHAW: Not for a while, Ange.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And are you actually gonna get married? I mean, I think I've known you a couple of years now-

NICK GRIMSHAW: This is-

ANGELA HARTNETT: -and you're still engaged.

NICK GRIMSHAW: This is a real real quick start to a podcast.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Well, it's 2024, so make all these questions.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Are you excited about being 40, and when are you getting married?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes, exactly.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We're twelve seconds in.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Um...

ANGELA HARTNETT: And? And?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, it's my birthday in August.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Okay.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Eight months, so eight months.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I know you like planning.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So not for a while. And marriage, that is probably going to happen this year as well.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Really? Okay.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, I think we've got to crack on with it. So that's my 2024...

ANGELA HARTNETT: Done. Glastonbury in the middle.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Glastonbury, wedding, turning 40.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Gogglebox.

NICK GRIMSHAW: What about you? What are your ambitions or visions for 2024?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Ooh. I had to write an article- or not an article, a thing for the newspapers before Christmas that said, what will you not do this year? So I've- I'm trying not to buy it online and stuff like that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Like what do you mean, like clothes?

ANGELA HARTNETT: You know, when you sit online and you just go and buy books or stuff, and you get everything ordered, because you can't be bothered to walk down the road to actually buy a packet of sugar. And the other thing I'd really love to do, which goes so badly against this, is like stop on WhatsApp groups. If one more person makes me join a WhatsApp group, I may murder them.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I have noticed your WhatsApp response has really fell off.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I know, they're getting worse and worse. I'm archiving a lot. You haven't actually been archived yet, but there's probably more people in my archive than there are actually in my WhatsApp.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's coming. I've been- yeah, no reply the last time I messaged you. It's been nearly a week, and it's just like, 'Hi, how are you?' No reply. No reply.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No reply.

NICK GRIMSHAW: But I want to be less Whatsapp-y too. I want to be less phone-y in general.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Well that's the other thing, yeah, and I've got to do it this year, is no phone in bed. I'm really trying but I keep breaking that curse. I know you do.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I know, I'm bad. I'm quite good at having it and not using it. So I can have it, you know, in my drawer, next to my bed, and it's fine. I just couldn't go to bed and not have my phone next to me because I always think I'm going to be murdered in my own home.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Okay, alright, interesting take on that. And what would you do? Just hold your phone and go, 'Please don't murder me, I'm just calling the police.'

NICK GRIMSHAW: I don't know. 'I'm just calling the police, if you could refrain.'

ANGELA HARTNETT: 'Can I just get a photo for social?'

NICK GRIMSHAW: 'Do you mind doing a TikTok dance first?'

[Laughter]

NICK GRIMSHAW: How do you look at January, by the way? Because I'm trying to spin it this year, because everyone's got the same chat in January. 'Oh, it's depressing, isn't it? Oh, it is cold, isn't it?' I'm like, let's just change that, because it happens every year.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No, also embrace it. Go for a big walk. As my friend says, no such thing as bad weather, it's bad clothing.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Wear an extra jumper. Put on proper socks, proper boots, and you will be warm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. No, just embrace it. I love January.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. Go January.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Go January.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We'll be your PR.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Right. Shall we get on with Dish? The first of 2024. So our guest today is Saoirse-Monica Jackson. She is an OG Derry girl. She played Erin, of course, in Derry Girls, and now she's here to talk about her brand-new drama called The Doll Factory. She is fab, Saoirse. I met her before. I met her at Glastonbury.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, nice. Okay, cool.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. And she's really really great fun, I'm really looking forward to it. Have you watched anything she's been in, have you watched Derry Girls?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I have watched Derry Girls.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, it's great, Derry Girls, isn't it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: It's great, isn't it, it's brilliant and just- and also, I went to a convent school with nuns, you know, there's lots of similarities and stuff, so it's brilliant and I think it was a great series. It's one you can dip in and out of again.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, should we get Saoirse in?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes, let's do it.

[Dinner table sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: We have joining us now, an actress famous for being a Derry Girl, and soon to take over the entire world. Move over, SJP, SMJ is in town. It's Saoirse-Monica Jackson, everybody.

[Applause]

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Hi, Saoirse.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Hiya.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How are ya?

ANGELA HARTNETT: You alright?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I'm good, I'm absolutely buzzing to be here.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, that's great.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I love the podcast, I'm a big fan, so I'm thrilled.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh my God, thank you for coming.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Thanks for having me.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That's great, thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Thanks for coming to see us, we were dead excited you were gonna come, come round for lunch. How do you feel about the acronym?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: There's a good vibe to it, isn't there?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, I like SMJ.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I'm into it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: The team actually said that SMJ was mentioned in an email from like your people to the team.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I like it.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I only actually get called it in work situations, maybe it's like a branding thing that I don't know about.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Right.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right, okay.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do you ever have an AH?

ANGELA HARTNETT: AH?

NICK GRIMSHAW: AH is not really- too sort of-

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: It's too close to AA, is it?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Maybe that later.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And do you like being called Nick or Grimmy? What I want me to call you. Because if you say Daddy, I'm out of here.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Well, thanks for coming. I'm not bothered. I- either.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Either.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Either, yeah. I used to hate Nick when I was little because I thought it was too spiky.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

NICK GRIMSHAW: But also Nicholas sounds too, sort of, Dickensian, doesn't it.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's like a bit of a mouthful.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, I like Nicholas.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I like Nicholas.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do you like Nicholas? Let's go Nicholas. Nicholas, Angela and Saoirse.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Oh, isn't that lovely.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Together. Well, we're dead excited you're on. We are going to kick off with a rosé, so cheers.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Buzzing. Cheers. Sláinte.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yep.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Here's to 2024.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Here's to 2024.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Cheers.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Cheers, guys, thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And here we go. We are going for the Waitrose Loved & Found Nerello Mascalese rosé, which is nice, fresh, delicate, with Sicilian citrus and floral jasmine.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Ooh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ooh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Very nice.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Lovely. It is, it's really nice and light. I really like it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. We're recording this before Christmas, but this goes out, beginning of January. How do you like to tackle a January? Are you one of them people that just like, carries on Christmas, or are you like New Year, new me?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I find actually the hardest bit is the festive gooch. So that bit's sort of in between Christmas and New Year's, that's when I think it can get like a bit out of control at points. But once you get into January, I think it's too hard then to like, when you're in that, like, cold, dark January to give yourself a harder time, so I like to not exercise that much and ease myself into the new year, not giving myself too much of a hard time.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Go on holidays, don't really start replying to emails until, like, maybe the 15th.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Good.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. Very good attitude. I like that, yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: But obviously, if Steven Spielberg's listening to this and you contact me on the 9th, I will reply.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: She'll get back to you.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Of course, of course.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Just a few more days.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Scorsese, anyone like.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Anyone like that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Anyone like that.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Of course, I'll get back.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Around the 15th, around the 15th. But how are you? How is life?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Life is all good. Everything's great. I'm currently living in Liverpool at the minute, so it's so nice to come down to London. I'm doing a bit of press, a bit of showbiz stuff.

NICK GRIMSHAW: A bit of showbiz.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah, it's nice.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How come Liverpool, how come you live in Liverpool?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: So when I met my partner, Hector, he was living in Berlin during the pandemic, and then when the Locky D's hit, he wanted to move back to the UK but he didn't know where to go, and Liverpool's a brilliant city and it's got like such a great music scene there that he ended up moving there. I was living in London for like ten years and then we just decided to stay there.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Great city, Liverpool.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's a great city.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: It's a great city, it's great craic, it's a great blow dry, the people are lovely.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I love that, a great blow dry.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: It is, it is, it's a great blow dry- I really struggled with that, you know, living in London I'm paying fifty pound for a s**** blow dry. Tipped me over the edge. It tipped me over the edge. So that's great, and the people are, and it's good bang for your buck, let's be honest so we're really happy there. And geographically, it's quite fair and I'm into fairness, you know, between Derry and Glasgow. So it's a good jumping off point.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's a good spot. Good base.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: It's a good spot.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And do your family come visit? Do they like a little weekend jaunt in Liverpool?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: They do. Actually, next week is my thirtieth, so we're having a big soirée, which I'm now, that it's getting close to the time I'm like, why the bejesus did I do this? Like at the time when I'd organised it, it felt like a great idea and like I'm not to sound like a martyr but I was like, oh I'm doing it for the benefit of everybody else, it'd be nice to bring everybody that I love together in one room, but now I'm like, what was I thinking?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, you get that pre-party panic. I get that.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I've got major pre-party panic.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So are they all coming to you? Are you hosting it or are you going out?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: So I'm hosting it, I've rented a venue and all my family's flying in from Ireland, my parents live in Spain so they're coming from there.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Hector's family's all coming from Scotland and all my mates are coming.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Wow.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: So it's gonna be great.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's gonna be fine.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Breathe.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: It's gonna be fine.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's gonna be great - But I get like that. I've done it before where I've cancelled a party.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, when it's got close to it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Wow.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Cause it's just too much, like...

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I don't know what it is.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Well, you get stressed because you want everyone to have a good time, and inevitably you've forgotten something and then that becomes a big drama.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Exactly. I'm more worried about it, like, I start to get stressed, not that this has ever happened, if I'm gonna be on good form. Not if I'm gonna like, have a good time, but, like, what if I'm just in a bad mood and that affects everybody else?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Sure, of course.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: But you know when sometimes things are so nice, you get overwhelmed, you get grumpy, I think like, inside, deep within me, I'm actually, like, a seventy-five-year-old man, and that comes out sometimes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Brilliant.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And also people will be expecting like, oh it will be fun, Saoirse's fun, Hector's fun it's gonna be g- and then you might be like, I'm not really in a fun mood today.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I'm not in a fun mood, aye. Let's talk about sad stuff guys.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. I'm actually very sad on my birthday.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: No it will be good craic and I've booked a drag queen and stuff, so I think that definitely takes the heat off because they'll be doing the hosting and stuff, so- and I've also never thrown a party this size before, I think like everything else has been thrown for me. I mean, poor me.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That's a really sad story.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: So this is the first time as an adult, I've like done this, so I think that having a drag queen that's going to like take the heat off, might be good.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes. That's what Madonna's done on this tour that she's on. She has a drag queen to take the heat off.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: That's genius. And is it not rumoured that she's gonna do the legendary slot, or... I always get this mixed up.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I think she'll do the Sunday night at Glastonbury.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: At Glasto.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right, okay, you think so.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. I think so.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Happy days. I'm just saving my money then.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I think she will. Cause we met at Glastonbury.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yes, we did.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That's where we first met.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And do you go every year? Do you always attend?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I've went now the last two years, so I've been lucky that obviously Hec gets the tickets 'cause I'm not really good at organising things that far in advance.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. Good luck for the party.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Exactly. That's all- I'm actually impressed with myself. So I've been the last two years, it's the most special place ever, I've absolutely loved it. It's brilliant.

NICK GRIMSHAW: This year, I think that would be very fun, Madonna on a Sunday night.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Has she done it before, Nick? Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Never done it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Never? Oh, there you go.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: So it's definitely gonna be her then.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Don't you think?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Because my friend was saying, she said, 'Oh, I don't think Madonna would do it. It's a bit, like, below her.'

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Do you think?

NICK GRIMSHAW: I was like, nah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: What? Who's below Glastonbury?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Exactly. Do you know what I mean?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: That's like being above Christmas. Wise up.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. You're not above it.

[Dinner table sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Are you catering the party?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I wasn't going to because in my personal opinion, I don't think anyone eats party food because it's just food that has like been breathed on by like 100 drunk people. So I wasn't going to, and then last week I was home with my family and my mum was asking me, and I was like, 'No I'm not gonna bother doing food Mum, I'm doing drinks but I'm not gonna do food,' and she nearly lost her life. She was like, 'You can't expect people and not feed them. That's a disgrace.' She was all, 'I'll organise the food, I'll pay for them, 'cause I will just be so

embarrassed,' if you don't feed people. I was like, right, so now I've organised food, so there is going to be food at the party.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Okay, there is going to be food.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And it's never ate.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No, nor- people will... you might have like a little nibble of an olive.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah. You might have a quick croquette.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, that's it.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: But that's about it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, that's about it. I want to- oh my God.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Ooh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Lasagne's here.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Thank you so much. What a treat.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Watch that plate, it's quite hot.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I can't wait.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ange, I'm so excited about this.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Why, you're not a lasagne fan?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Because I don't love lasagne, and I'm so excited about this.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: This is so nice. I can't believe I got food cooked for me by you!

[Dinner table sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ange, talk me through this lasagne, so this recipe is called, The best lasagne.

ANGELA HARTNETT: The best, I know.

NICK GRIMSHAW: By Martha Collison.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So it's, yeah, beef mince, pork mince, what we call a soffritto; carrot, onion, celery, red wine, beef stock, and I use tomato purée, not tinned tomatoes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So no tinned tomatoes?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Little, tiny little bit, but mainly tomato puree. And then cook it for a long time, for about, you know, a good two hours.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And then you make it like a classic lasagne with a white sauce (a bechamel sauce), the ragù, your layers of lasagne, parmesan...

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Oh sweet Jesus, that's so nice.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow, that is good.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: That's so nice.

ANGELA HARTNETT: My friend Salvatore makes it- because the southerners in Ischia, in the south of Naples, they put boiled eggs in their lasagne.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I'd love an egg on that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Really? Oh, well next time he makes it, because I go, no, it's wrong on every level, Salvatore. He puts eggs and they do meatballs as well, so they have like a meatball ragu, and the eggs and the bechamel and ricotta- I mean, it feels like you're just emptying your fridge to make this lasagne.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: That's crazy.

ANGELA HARTNETT: But it is quite delicious when he makes it.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: So the pasta sheets are on top of meatballs.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Must be like a wee tractor.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Exactly, yeah.

[Laughter]

[Drink pouring sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Okay, so this recipe, if you want to try this, of course you can try it on [waitrose.com/dishrecipes](https://www.waitrose.com/dishrecipes), it's on there. The best lasagne is the name of this lasagne, and I think it is fitting.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: It is.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, it really is. It really is fitting. We are going to pair this with a red wine, this is Waitrose Loved & Found Lacrima, which is a grape variety from Italy's Le Marche region- is that perfect Italian for me there, 'le marsh'?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Le Marche.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Le Marche.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Le Marche.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Le March- yeah. Marche. You know, I'm half Italian? And yeah, it's nice richness with this wine, which is perfect to go with the lasagne.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Beautiful.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Amazing.

ANGELA HARTNETT: We're happy.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I've just- I did a job out in Italy this year.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, nice.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, yeah?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: So I was out there for seven months, living.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Wow.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And obviously was really trying, right, and like, I'm dyslexic, so sometimes things don't sink in that fast. But they sink in in different ways, let's say. And I landed out, and I was trying to make the effort with the crew, and we were like three weeks into the job, and I kept landing into like the hair and makeup rooms in the morning, being all, 'Buenos Aires! Buenos Aires! Buenos Aires!' And Zosia Mamet-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Not Buenos Aires.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Nobody corrected me on it, the cheeky s****.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Shut up.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Everybody was letting me just run around calling Argentina- that's not Argentinia- oh.

[Laughter]

ANGELA HARTNETT: Did they say that back to you though?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: They were saying it back to me as well-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh my God.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: They were like, 'Bella, Buenos Aires.' And then it was about three weeks into the show and this wonderful American actress, me and Zosia play this like double act on the show, in The Decameron, and it was about three weeks into the job and she was like, 'I'm so sorry, but it's not Buenos Aires.' And I was like, 'Are you actually being serious?' And I was all, 'Why are you all saying Buenos Aires to me?' And she was all, 'I think it's like a joke with everyone that you don't know about?' And I was, 'Oh no!'

NICK GRIMSHAW: That is so good. I love that. What were you up to there filming?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: This was for a Netflix show that will be out, I'm sure, at some point next year.

NICK GRIMSHAW: The Decameron's come in on Netflix, that's in like, the 1300s or something, right?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: It is, aye.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How is it doing, like, a full on period drama like that?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Well, full on period's an absolute nightmare.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, absolute nightmare. Absolute nightmare.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: But period drama was wild craic, you know, it's such an amazing premise as a TV show, and the writer done such a fantastic job that immediately I fell in love with it. It's sort of got this, like, magical but quite dark and surrealist tone to it. It's, like, old Italian literature, I think it was like one of the first

comedic tales, and it follows ten characters that are sent out to this villa and that have been invited out to ride out the Black Plague, which was like one of the most deadliest viruses. So very fitting and it's like about all these nobles, some of their handmaids going out and it turns into this like wine, soaked sex party and madness and survival of them all.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Jeepers.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: So it was great. Not like my Christmases anyway.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Is that what your trips to Italy are like Ange?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I know. Hit a nail on the head there. And where were you filming? Whereabouts?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: We were filming in Rome.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, amazing.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh wow, nice. You were out there for what? Seven months?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Seven months nearly, aye.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And it sounds really nice, like seven months in Rome, but I imagine you're at work every day, aren't you?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I was at work aye, nearly every day and we had the usual one or two days off. Obviously, the food was amazing. Hard to regulate yourself, but it was sort of crazy that it's such a major city, and I understand, because the Italians are so good at their own food, but they're not good at any other food.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh yeah, you can't get a good Chinese or an English.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: You couldn't get a Chinese, oh man- my Indian...

NICK GRIMSHAW: What did you try?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: was disgusting! And I, I tried them everywhere, because obviously after seven months, like- and I never thought these words would come out of my mouth, I can't, like, after five months I couldn't do it anymore, but they were so bad at everything else. It was either pasta, they were good at sushi.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: But, in my opinion, can you really mess up sushi? Like, I've never been wowed, like, and Hector, my partner, is such a, like, culture vulture that he showed me so many amazing, and he took me to Nobu and stuff like that. Obviously, it was class, loved the cocktails and stuff. But when people are like, oh, the sushi at Nobu's amazing, it's cold rice with cold fish on top, like, how could you mess that up? And how long were those chefs training at? Like how long were you training? Do you just do the same shape with different fish and rice? Or am I missing something? Sushi the ultimate spoof...

Laughter

[Dinner table sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Let's talk about The Doll Factory, which you can watch right now. Tell us all about this, because this is the name of a show, which is also the name of a book, which is really, really loved. For anyone that's not heard of the book, or not seen the show yet, fill us in on The Doll Factory.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: If anybody's not read the book first, then you're going to want- I would recommend, really, reading the book before the TV series, because the writer, Elizabeth MacNeal, it's just such a beautiful book. And the TV show is equally as gorgeous, but I think it more- get it, soak it all in if you can.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, get it all. Did you read the book before you got sent the script?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I read the book off the premise of trying to get the job, and then happy days that it was a good book, d'you know, because that happens sometimes where you're like, Jesus Christ! I haven't worked in ages, and I'm only forty pages into this book.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So then when you read it and loved it, you're like, right, I definitely want this now.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I definitely- exactly. It again has, in very different ways, and I love anything that's magical and dark, and this again has that feeling, it's very surreal, again in different ways, and it's set in the 1800s in London, just quite an interesting time to look at for women as well at that point. It's a story that follows this girl called Iris, who has ambitions to be a painter, she's experiencing a lot of misogyny and ownership and jealousy. There's a lot of sibling rivalry between her and her twin sister, which I always think is so fascinating, like the intensities of sibling relationships.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And I play a character called Bluebell, who is a sex worker, who has a close relationship with the madam that runs the pub, and I

suppose I find that quite interesting when like, there's young woman in stories that have a relationship with an older woman, it's always interesting to play with those boundaries and the dynamics of how that works when they have no family themselves, you know, posing those questions of like, you know, did she have a more like childlike relationship with her? How much is she looking after and how much could she be taking the hand, how smart is she? But I remember the breakdown, it said that she's not a tart with a heart and I was like, that's lovely. So I'll do that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, I'll do that.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I'll do that. And the costumes were great.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Do you film in London? Or is it filmed somewhere?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: We filmed in Dublin.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, right.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: So it was cool to be filming around Dublin, and the locations and stuff were gorgeous. It was absolutely freezing.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And I couldn't pee in the corset.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh no.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh no.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: They didn't even give me a wee pee hole in the tights. So it was a whole heartache.

ANGELA HARTNETT: It must have taken you ages to makeup and...

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I was way dehydrated all November and last December.

NICK GRIMSHAW: She suffered for the art.

ANGELA HARTNETT: She suffered.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I suffered.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No water on The Doll Factory, so please go watch it. Get it on on Paramount+ right now. Not right now.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Cause you're listening to us.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You're listening to us, but like good January fodder in it, like in the house, watching something like that.

[Salt grinder sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: I really like this when we have a guest that will eat anything. Am I right in saying, Saoirse, that you will eat...

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Anything.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Anything. I hate when someone- I don't want to say- well, whatever, okay. I hate when someone's a fussy eater. I'm like just shut up.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Just stop.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Just eat it. Mesh is a bit funny about like, 'Is that cooked properly,' when we're in a restaurant, like, yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I think that they're the type of people to cry at a sleepover also and go home early.

ANGELA HARTNETT: He's constantly going home to his mum and dad, yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: When someone's fussy it comes into my mind, she would have left my birthday party early.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, one of them.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's like, get on with it. Just eat it.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: What do you think that stems from? Do you think it's because your mum was a chef, or do you think it was your mum being like, just eat it and shut up?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Just eat it. But I do remember recognising, and I know that sounds desperate, but going round to other people's houses and recognising that my mum was such a good cook as well, and being like, Oh, the gravy's a bit watery. 'Sharon, was that just Bisto? You didn't put any of the jus in?'

[Dinner table sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Now we're gonna do a quick fire round on some of the foods. So just tell us the first thing that pops into your head when we say coleslaw.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Derry.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Derry. Why Derry?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I have no idea why this happened, but Derry people just love coleslaw. I think it's actually all Irish people. I think it's an Irish thing.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I think it's an Irish thing, yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: But where did that come from?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Or all people? Who don't like coleslaw?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: My mum- I always forget about my dad. My mum and her husband, my dad. That's terrible.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That old fella.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: That's desperate, isn't it?

ANGELA HARTNETT: My mum and her fella.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: My mum and my dad live in Spain, and there's loads of Irish women out there also in Spain, and they're all friends, and they've now started a coleslaw community.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No, brilliant.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Shut up.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Where like, once a week, one of them agrees to make the batch of coleslaw, and they like, run it around each other-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Split it.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Split it, because the coleslaw in Spain is so bad.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Coleslaw community.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Aye.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Next up, we go to vol-au-vents.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I think of my younger brother. He'd like, charmed a dinner lady at our primary school so much that she was sneaking him vol-au-vents, chicken vol-au-vents.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Aye

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And he was getting like eight of them.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That's quite an impressive primary school, if you don't mind me saying, vol-au-vents.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Is vol-au-vents impressive?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I think that is.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: That's a big Derry thing as well. You can get vol-au-vents at any time of the day in Derry, in big shops.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Wow.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Really?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Aye, they sell them in corner shops, you'll get like, obviously, milk, bread, vol-au-vents.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No way.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No. I've never noticed that when I've been.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Isn't that weird?

NICK GRIMSHAW: I think of vol-au-vents as like dead posh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Or sort of a fancy party food.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: We love a vol-au-vent. A wee open pie with a hat.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm. Next up we want to talk to you about ice cream.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I love ice cream.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do you love ice cream?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I love it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Now we're going to do an ice cream dessert. And we never really do a dessert. We've maybe only ever had five desserts ever, in the history of Dish.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I feel really special. I think my grandparents, my Granny and Grandad used to always take me, there's a really famous old ice cream parlour in Derry called Fiorentini's and it's like, one of the oldest restaurants, shops in the city, and it's like an Italian family - which I always find so crazy, like why would you have moved to Derry hundreds and hundreds of years ago, how did you, how did you even find it? And they have an amazing ice cream shop there, and we would go on, like if I got ten out of ten on my spelling test my grandparents would take me in for knickerbocker glory, and I would love it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So that's like nice, good memories.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Memories, exactly. Lovely, wholesome memories.

NICK GRIMSHAW: When I was in Rome last year, I went for mate's birthday, and I had a pistachio ice cream there, which I sometimes just close my eyes and think about.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Do you ever get that feeling at the back of your molars where that squirts up and it goes, 'khh.'

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, yeah. It squirts.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: When it's something so tasty, the thought of it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: The thought of it. I get that when I see a packet of Discos.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I love Discos too!

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love- when I see a packet of Discos my mouth is like-

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: 'Kkkhh.'

NICK GRIMSHAW: Like that thing from Jurassic Park, like-

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I'm the same, what's your favourite? The salt and vinegar.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Salt and vinegar.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Oh, you're a man after my own heart.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh wow.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Oh my god that's so sweet!

ANGELA HARTNETT: Vanilla and chocolate there, hundreds and thousands, chocolate sauce and a little bit of pistachio and hazelnut brittle.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: That is lovely.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Did you make this brittle?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I made the brittle, yes.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Ach, thank you so much.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, it's a pleasure.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That's so cute.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Sorry, I've left the ice cream out. It's melted a little bit, but it's fine.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: That's the perfect way to have it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: It should be.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, perfect. I don't really like chocolate ice cream.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Do you not? What's your beef with it then, why do you not like it?

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love chocolate, but I don't really like chocolate ice cream.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Do you think it's just in the wrong form? Like sort of seeing kids in leather jackets?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah.

[Laughter]

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I do know what you mean. Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's like-

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: It's just, you don't need to do that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We don't need to do that.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Leave them in their separate places in the world?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, yeah. It's exactly like that.

[Drink pouring sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Hey, we've got to talk about Derry Girls, just because-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Of course.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow. How did you get involved with it? Was it a really exciting thing to know that there was a show being made about a group of girls from where you're from, and you get to be one of them.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I know, and I got to be one of them. Do you know, sometimes when I think back on it, and obviously there's been more space now in the last year, to reflect on it and have a bit of hindsight, it's even more so now, cannot believe my luck that I was just out of drama school and a fantastic writer had made this amazing TV show based on where I'm from, it's like, that is just extraordinary luck, d'you know...

NICK GRIMSHAW: So how long from finishing drama school to you starting filming Derry Girls?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I think like a year.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, wow.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: So I did like other odd wee bits of telly and I'd started doing theatre and stuff like that, so I was sort of plodding along.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And I was still doing other jobs at the time, I was selling door to door, which was commission based and I didn't make a penny. And then I ended up getting sacked from it, and then I got an email for Derry Girls on the same day, so it felt like all very full circle. I was crying on a Greggs on the phone to my mum and this Irish builder, it was honestly the maddest day of my life. I got sacked, and then I went to Greggs and I was crying and I was on the phone to my mum, and this Irish builder came in and he was like, 'Are you okay?' And I was like, 'No, I just got fired from this job.' And he was like, 'We're actually building these apartments for the Man City players. Come down and we'll give you a job.' And it was like dark, it was seven o'clock at night, and I was like, I'm not too sure about going out...

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And he was like, like...

ANGELA HARTNETT: That seems such a weird thing...

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And he was like, 'Give me a second,' he was like, 'What's your name?' And I was like, 'Saoirse,' he was like, 'Where are you from?' and I said, 'Derry,' he was like, 'What's your second name?' 'Jackson.' He was like, 'Two seconds, I'll make a couple of calls,' and he came back down and he was like, 'Is your father, Sean.' He knew all my family.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No way.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Cause everybody at home knows each other, and I was like, right, fair enough, I will come to the building site with you, but it better be lit the whole way. And we went down, and I met the boss, like his boss, and fair enough, they were building these amazing apartments, and these men that I just met that day were like so nice to me and they gave me a really good job. I was a snagger on the building site, where it's going around pointing out problems.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Love that.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I love that! A good job!

ANGELA HARTNETT: 'You missed a bit. That's fallen down.'

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: It was wild craic, you know, and they got me a wee pink hard hat and all, I was having the time of my life. They were paying me as well.

They were paying me a fortune as well, they were paying me really well, and then I came out of the building site and I looked at my phone and I had an email that was like, there's an audition for this thing called Derry Girls and I was like, what a day!

NICK GRIMSHAW: What a day!

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: What a day! I've been up since 6 o'clock this morning and now I'm on my third job!

NICK GRIMSHAW: And what a day, and what a show, and like you say, the writing as well, I just remember watching that and being like Wow.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And so well-formed characters the whole way through. But one of the best things that's ever happened to me is meeting Lisa McGee, that there's sort of this amazing example of this woman from my hometown that we can all look up to, and I can really look up to of how she conducts herself in this industry and stuff, was- it made such a huge impression on me, the experience of the job, mainly Lisa, that it's like, if you look back on it, it's like, thank God.

NICK GRIMSHAW: There's been talk and rumours of it becoming a movie. Do you think that's something that you'd like to see happen, a Derry Girls movie?

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Yeah, I think that would be great. I think it's so brilliant to see what everybody else went on to do after it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: And I mean, the cast is all so talented and it was amazing to work with them all, so it's interesting to see what everyone's went on to do afterwards, and I think it's always good to give these things space creatively and then come back, and I think it also might be more interesting d'you know, to revisit these characters at a later date. But like honest to- that's not down to us you know, that would be down to Lisa, but I would read the ingredients of a Pot Noodle if she asked me to so Lisa, if you're listening?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Come on, Lisa.

[Dinner table sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Right, we've come to the end of the show question. Should you choose to answer it, you can win a Waitrose goodie bag.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Ooh, thank you very much.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We've basically done the big shop for you.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: 'Saoirse SMJ, don't worry, there's no question today, you're guaranteed the goodie bag - it's January after all. We would like you, to use the end of the show question, to do some manifesting. Tell us your dream role. Who, alive or dead, you would love to play.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So who alive or dead would you love to play?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Mmm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mmm.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I'd love to play Blondie.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh yeah, come on.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I'd love that whole journey, like Debbie Harry's whole journey, I think would be unbelievable, and the immense-

ANGELA HARTNETT: That would be brilliant actually. Has there ever been a film about Blondie, has there? I don't think so.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: They've done the Sex Pistols TV series, but it wasn't heavily featured on Blondie.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: But let's be honest, if that happens, it's probably going to go to Miley Cyrus.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I reckon you've got an in there.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Let's campaign for you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I reckon- I'd come to see you as Debbie Harry.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Definitely.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: That would be great craic.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Get a pair of wayfarers, you're ready

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: I know, but that would be great craic, wouldn't it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh my God, that would be fab.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Do you know what's a nightmare with me, with biopics? It's my nose, right? Because when things come in, because like, I just have such a weird, I obviously love my nose now.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I think you have a fantastic nose.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: But who else has this nose? Do you know what I mean? They would need to do some serious prosthetics on me. And I've never met anybody that's not in my gene pool that doesn't have this nose. So like, I get auditions through and I really give it lilty, and like, I really think I'm doing a good job and I've done a good job, and most of the time as well- well sometimes I'll get through to the next round because I've obviously got the sense of the person right, but in the back of my head I'm like, I'm not gonna get this because of my f***ing nose.

[Laughter]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Saoirse, thank you so much for coming around.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Thank you so much.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Make sure you watch Saoirse in The Doll Factory right now on Paramount+. A round of applause for Saoirse-Monica Jackson, everybody!

[Applause]

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Oh, thank you so much. Thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That was so fun. Thank you.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: Thank you so much.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Thank you for coming. It was brilliant.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Thank you for coming round, that was great.

SAOIRSE-MONICA JACKSON: It was a real pleasure and all of it was mine, thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Next week on Dish, we are going to be joined by Amol Rajan.

NICK GRIMSHAW: If I watch University Challenge and I get like 4, I have to ring my mum, or get three in 30 minutes..

AMOL RAJAN: It is so satisfying when you get something right.. you're like I'm up there with the legends...

ANGELA HARTNETT: My IQ...

NICK GRIMSHAW: So good, I always love it when you're like right, the round of contemporary music, I'm like, oh... and they're like in 1818?!!

ANGELA HARTNETT: Details of all the delicious meals I've cooked on Dish can be found at [waitrose.com/dishrecipes](https://www.waitrose.com/dishrecipes). All the links are in our show notes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We love reading your reviews, don't we Ange? Ange?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yep.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. Please keep them coming, and you know, the bigger the better.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Dish is a SE Creative Studio production.

VOICEOVER: Waitrose, food to feel GOOD about.