



Jay Blades, sea bream & brown butter champ and a furmint

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

NICK GRIMSHAW: Attention please, this is Dish from Waitrose.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You sound like you're in the supermarket. 'Aisle five, aisle five.'

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh my God, we should do that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: 'There's been a spillage in aisle five.'

NICK GRIMSHAW: We should do- I wanna be the voice in Waitrose. I do. Anyway, welcome along to Dish. This is Nick Grimshaw.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Angela Hartnett.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You may know our voices from your local supermarket.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Hello.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How are you, Ange?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I'm very well, thank you, Nick.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah?

ANGELA HARTNETT: How are you?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, yeah, I'm good, I'm good, I'm good, I'm excited that we're back.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Back, doing it, busy.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Back together.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Aw.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Doing Dish. People really miss it, and I'm- I'm not saying this to be humble, but I can't believe people do. People are like, oh, thank God it's back, I'm like, wow, really?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes, wow, really.

NICK GRIMSHAW: But people do listen.

ANGELA HARTNETT: People do listen.

NICK GRIMSHAW: People really, really listen.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Lots of people stop me and say, 'Love Dish.'

NICK GRIMSHAW: I know.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Love it, yeah, randoms.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Actual randoms, people- people do listen. Before we speak about today's guest and what we are gonna be doing on Dish today, I thought we could hear from one of them people that do actually listen to Dish, Liz-

ANGELA HARTNETT: And we are very grateful for the listeners.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No, we are, we sound like we're being flippant.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, no, we're really very grateful.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's- it doesn't feel like coming to work, this, does it really?

ANGELA HARTNETT: No.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It probably does for you, 'cause you have to cook loads of meals... but for me, I'm like, oh my God, nice bit of lunch and a goss.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, lovely.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So thank you.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And thanks for getting in touch with us. If you do ever want to get in touch with us about anything, dish@waitrose.co.uk is the way to do it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That is the way to get hold of you, I reckon.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I'm just all about email. That's my li-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, just about email.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That's that my form of communication.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So if you want Ange, this is the way to do it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Email.

NICK GRIMSHAW: My nephew messaged me today saying, oh, will you follow me on... something, and I was like, what's that? And he was like, oh, it's a new platform for club culture.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh God.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I was like, oh no. I'm trying to do less, not more.

ANGELA HARTNETT: How's your TikTok going by the way?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, it's doing good.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Is it?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh my God, do you know what?

ANGELA HARTNETT: You up with Gordon yet?

NICK GRIMSHAW: No, but we're on... let's see what we're on, 84,000.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So I have to be on TikTok to see your TikTok.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, okay. I'm not gonna see it then.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, no, sack it off. It's ba- it's basically-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Hang on there - Why am I on there?

NICK GRIMSHAW: 'Cause you're on there.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh gosh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You're on my TikTok because you're on it every week.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh my lord.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. So you do have a TikTok presence.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I have a TikTok presence. I dunno whether that's allowed, should you have asked me about it?

NICK GRIMSHAW: No.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Is that an infringement of my rights?

NICK GRIMSHAW: As if.

ANGELA HARTNETT: As if.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You signed them away four series ago. They've gone Ange. That one's gone now.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right, we'll be renegotiating contract five, okay.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Right, let's hear from Liz, who has emailed us, hi Liz. Liz says, 'Hi, I don't have a question, but I do just wanna say how much I love the podcast and Nick and Ange, who are just amazing.' Oh, thank you, Liz. 'You are saving my soul. My mum, soon to be 89, is in a care home with dementia, and it's a 15 mile journey one way to go and see her, which I do several times a week. I found Dish late into series two so I had the back catalogue to accompany me in the car. It was amazing as I'd never know what would meet me at the care home, so thank you, you have cheered me up immensely and still do.' She says, 'Cheers from Liz.'

ANGELA HARTNETT: Aw.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, Liz. Thank you for that Liz, I love that you listen to us when you are, you are making those journeys and that we can help and make you feel, you know, however you want to feel from listening to us before you go see your mum. But sending you lots of love Liz, that is-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Exactly

NICK GRIMSHAW: -really nice to hear, thank you.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And well done doing all that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, all that driving and, and dedication to your mum. Em, shall we talk about our guest today?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Indeed, we should.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Jay Blades, who people will know as kind of like the nicest, realest man on the telly and he has an MBE for services to crafts. And he presents The Repair Shop.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Which is one of the BBC's like biggest-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Huge.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -most loved, huge primetime shows.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Like seven million, eight million people watch it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, it's huge.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mad.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So it started out on BBC Two and it was sort of a bit cult-y like, oh, that's quite cute, and now it's full-on BBC One primetime, like The King's been on it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do you know what I mean? And it's a really good idea for a programme.

ANGELA HARTNETT: It feels like it's sort of the X-Factor of craft in a way, you know, 'cause you follow people on a journey, don't you?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You sort of, you know, you look at it and you think, what? What's that old chair? What's that? And then you realise that-

NICK GRIMSHAW: There's a story.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -you know, they gave birth to their firstborn on that chair or something.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Do you know what I mean? But it is like that, which is quite incredible, I think.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And you've got a mutual friend, you two.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Who's my mutual friend?

NICK GRIMSHAW: The King.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh yeah, of course.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, me and Charles.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. The King. Alright, let's get our guest in.

[Jingle]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Today on Dish, we have the man who can restore your furniture, but also your soul.

JAY BLADES: Oh, thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's Jay Blades MBE, everybody.

[Applause]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Hi Jay.

JAY BLADES: Hello. Hi.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How are you?

JAY BLADES: I'm very good. How are you guys? Alright?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Very well thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, we're alright.

JAY BLADES: Have you cooked? I heard you're cooking dinner, or something?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I am, I'm cooking you your supper.

JAY BLADES: Alright.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Sing for your supper now, Jay.

JAY BLADES: I can't sing.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

JAY BLADES: I'll dance. I'll do a little something for you.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Do a little dance.

JAY BLADES: Okay then, alright.

ANGELA HARTNETT: The floor is yours.

[*Laughter*]

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, we're gonna- I've got a lovely supper for you, so I hope you like fish.

JAY BLADES: Yeah. And I'm starving.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Are you?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Good. Good.

JAY BLADES: Yes. I'm unbelievable - I was told not to eat.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: And I'm proper hungry.

NICK GRIMSHAW: When was the last time you ate?

JAY BLADES: Well just in that room there I had a couple of grapes and one olive.

ANGELA HARTNETT: It's not really eating though, is it?

JAY BLADES: No, it's not. No.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No.

NICK GRIMSHAW: A little starter.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, just a little starter.

NICK GRIMSHAW: One olive, one olive.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: But welcome Jay, we're dead excited you're on.

JAY BLADES: Oh, thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How are you, how is life?

JAY BLADES: I'll tell you what, life is good, sometimes when you pause, it's the weirdest thing, 'cause then you are able to take in like, everything that's happening. Normally I'm just going from thing to thing to thing.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

JAY BLADES: And then when you sit down, it's normally when I'm hungry, you might get a few references to being hungry, but um....

NICK GRIMSHAW: He's hungry?

JAY BLADES: It's a- it's a case of, yeah, you take it all in. It's really good.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, great.

JAY BLADES: It's unbelievable what's happening to me.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: I mean crazy.

ANGELA HARTNETT: But I don't imagine you stop. I imagine you're someone that is like, what's going on in three months? What am I doing next? And just because you're enthusiastic about life, that's why we love you.

JAY BLADES: I'm- I- I was saying to someone once that, I wake up really early in the mornings. I mean, sometimes I wake up five o'clock in the morning. I said to 'em, why, why do you think I wake up that early? And then they said, 'cause you're excited for life.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I like getting up early-

JAY BLADES: Yeah, it's good.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -because you actually feel you've achieved something even though for the rest of the day you might do sod all.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do nothing.

JAY BLADES: Might do nothing.

NICK GRIMSHAW: But I was up early.

ANGELA HARTNETT: The fact that I've got up early and done a few things, you're like, that's it. I'm done for the day. It's marvellous.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah, sorted. I was up early.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I was up early.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I don't, the only thing I don't like doing waking up early is feeding the dogs.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, okay.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Because the smell of dog food-

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Pre-8am...

JAY BLADES: Ooh yeah, it's not good.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -is disgusting.

JAY BLADES: That's not good.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So a little bit of starvation, they'll be fine.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wait 'til eight.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, wait 'til eight.

NICK GRIMSHAW: 'Til I can handle it. But you are out in the countryside, right?

JAY BLADES: Yeah. I'm in Wolverhampton.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, Wolverhampton.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, Shropshire side, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: What made you make the move of-

JAY BLADES: Up there.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Up there?

JAY BLADES: I'll tell you what it was 8 years ago- I think it's 8 years ago, what are we in, two thousand twenty f- yeah, oh it's almost 9 years, in April it'll be 9 years.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

JAY BLADES: So 9, almost 9 years ago, what happened was everything flopped for me. The business, the relationship, everything. And I couldn't-

ANGELA HARTNETT: And this was a charity that went- yeah.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, it was a charity, yeah, and we also had a business, and then I was running it with my ex-wife.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: And basically, I couldn't see myself being here tomorrow, if that makes sense.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right, yeah, yeah got you.

JAY BLADES: And as I couldn't see myself being here tomorrow, what happened was I got in a car, was driving- was living in High Wycombe at the time, got on the M40 and was looking for a bridge to crash in to.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right, yeah.

JAY BLADES: So basically, me in my naivety didn't know that every bridge has a barrier.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm-hm.

JAY BLADES: If that makes sense. So I'm driving up the M40, there's a bridge there, alright, put foot down a little bit, oh, there's a barrier. Next one. Next one. I kept on doing that and then I got to the M5 where the car started flashing, there was like, the petrol light came on.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mmm.

JAY BLADES: Went in there, filled up with some petrol, went to like a retail park, sat in there for about a week. And I never knew at the time that my ex-wife had reported me missing, so basically what happened is as soon as I came out of there, after being in there for a week, I was hungry and I was... yeah, this one's quite funny actually, I just remembered this. So basically what happened is my stomach was talking to me, proper hungry.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

JAY BLADES: And then I saw this like fast food place over the way and I said, right, I'm gonna go in there and have some food. So it's a bit like, you know if you are ever in- you're on the tube and there's someone standing beside you, they're not touching you, but you can feel they're coming to your-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Their presence, yeah, mm-hm.

JAY BLADES: Their presence is there. So I'm walking across this car park and I could feel someone's presence and I looked behind me and there's no one there, and what it basically was, it was my body odour. It had its own postcode.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Ooh.

JAY BLADES: You know what I mean? It was, it was proper strong, you know what I mean?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, in that car for that many days, yeah.

JAY BLADES: So then basically I said, well, I'm not going in now, stink. Went to a... like a hotel, said to the geezer, 'Oh look mate, I'm just gonna go get some shower gel and I'll come back, here's the money for the room but I smell a bit.' And you normally know when you smell, because normally they tell you like, 'Oh no, no, you don't smell.' This geezer just stood back.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, he's like...

JAY BLADES: Alright, here we go. So then I got me shower gel, came back to the room and there was five people waiting for me. There was a psychiatric nurse, I think there was two of them, and then there was another really stern, like matron, and that was there, and then there were two police officers. And they started interviewing me, and all this time I'm like, I wanted to take a shower, I need to have a bath, I stink.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

JAY BLADES: And it was only when they said to me, 'Oh, we don't have to section him.' And I was like, who are you sectioning? Because I'd done 20 years in community and I knew like what sectioning was. And then they said I was gonna section you, 'cause we thought you was gonna be a harm to yourself-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: -and harm to others and all that kind of stuff. And then they left me and because they had notified my ex-wife, she then notified a guy that was living in Wolverhampton who I got on quite well with, and then he came and got me.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: And that's how I've stayed in Wolverhampton.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: So that's the reason why I'm there, and that was nine y...it was 2015.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: I think, yeah, 2015.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So it's not that- we don't- 'cause reading your book.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You know, you think it was longer what happened, but actually-

JAY BLADES: It feels-

ANGELA HARTNETT: -in time of life, it's quite recent in lots of ways.

JAY BLADES: It's all of this stuff has just happened recently.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

JAY BLADES: I mean, it's all just blown up, like it's, it's unbelievable. Sometimes when I pause and I look at my life, yeah. I'm just like, really? Is that me? It's like, is that really happening to me? I like, I've got some friends now that I can call up that's like, I would never have thought this would've ever happened to me.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: It's just like, wow. Unbelievable.

ANGELA HARTNETT: But given your sort of work in, as you say, you know, you were working in care, care homes, you were looking after mentally ill people.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You didn't recognise any of the signs? Obviously not because you felt, yeah.

JAY BLADES: No, one of the signs that that, and I don't think they taught me this in the care homes. One of the signs that I really recognise now was, I was doing a lot of charity work, so looking after people for like twenty years, care homes, homeless places, hostels, you name it. I was doing stuff. And basically I never, I never thought that I would be able to ask these people for help.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

JAY BLADES: So I knew I was vulnerable, I was going down, I felt it, I just knew something was wrong. But I felt such a way that I couldn't ask them and say, well look, I need help.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: Because you are helping these people, and then you are gonna ask them for help. It's a weird dynamic.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

JAY BLADES: And where I was born and bred was in Hackney - if you showed your kind of vulnerability growing up in the seventies and eighties, you became a victim. And that's what I never wanted to do. You know what I mean? So it was like, the reality was I didn't know where to go. And all it was.... Especially when Gerald came and got me at that hotel, showing my vulnerability actually gave me strength. By crying in front of another man and he never took the mickey, and then everything that's happened after that, me just letting my guard down, it's just like, is that how easy it was? It's just like, it's unbelievable. Unbelievable.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And I guess you sort of like, I get in the sense you sort of like surrendered into it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: 100%. Yeah, yeah. I was crying loads, I mean it was insane. 2015, there was loads of crying, there was loads of counselling and loads of support that I'd received, yeah, it's kind of- even thinking about it now, it's just like, wow. It's nuts, isn't it? Like where I am now, like sitting here gonna be fed in a minute.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Allegedly. So they say.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Don't worry, it's coming. It is coming.

JAY BLADES: I'm just saying-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Quite pushy this guest, isn't he?

JAY BLADES: I'm just saying. Like, this table's nice but it ain't got a plate on it, you know what I mean? I need something.

[Crunching sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: I'm happy you are here Jay, and I'm happy you are on time today because I heard you had a terrible timing dinner mishap.

JAY BLADES: Who did?

NICK GRIMSHAW: You did.

JAY BLADES: Oh yeah?

NICK GRIMSHAW: With Dame Judi Dench.

JAY BLADES: Oh, why you going there?

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love this.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Dame Judi.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You gotta share the story because this is unreal.

JAY BLADES: Oh wow. No, all it was- no it wasn't all it was, it's quite embarrassing.

NICK GRIMSHAW: All.

JAY BLADES: Well, the Dame invited us to dinner, me and me hugs and kisses, to come down there and basically... Yeah, the traffic was bad and it was raining. It was a lot. We set off on time, but we was like, over an hour late.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

JAY BLADES: And we was there- we was meant to be there for lunch and I think the time was 12:30 to- no, let's say it was sort of one o'clock. I think we got there about three.

NICK GRIMSHAW: [*winces*] Ooh.

JAY BLADES: It was really bad. I mean, I feel really- but she welcomed us with open arms, it was like, everybody waited. They were starving, a bit like myself.

NICK GRIMSHAW: A bit like now.

JAY BLADES: Yeah. So it's kind of- no I really like her, she's cool.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How did you meet Dame Judi Dench and end up going for tea?

JAY BLADES: I, I met her... she came to the Repair Shop, we was gonna do the Royal special, and she knows the boss who, who's The King, basically the governor.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

JAY BLADES: And she was gonna then meet up with him, and as she was gonna meet up with the boss after, he had Covid the first time he was gonna come, so he didn't come. But then we was having a chinwag, me and her, and we just got on like a house on fire.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: So that's how I met her. And then from that, I think we did the Comic Relief special.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

JAY BLADES: With Jennifer and-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh that was genius.

JAY BLADES: That one was nice, yeah. And then ever since that she's- she sends me messages, she's done a couple of jingles for me.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Aw.

JAY BLADES: Cause I play music on the, on the radio. And then once we- well, I surprised her at...where was it we was? It was at this theatre, she was doing a tour, three dates.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: And basically, sorted it out with her daughter that I would be her personal, like present, her Christmas present.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

JAY BLADES: It was during the Christmas time. And then- so they was chatting to her and they said, 'Oh, you've got a doll,' and all that, she said, 'Yeah, yeah, I've got a teddy bear, it needs to get fixed,' and then, 'Oh, why don't you take to a repair shop,' is what the guy said. And she goes, 'Oh, that'd be nice, they said, 'You liked Jay, didn't you?' And then she just went, 'Ooh. Ooh, Jay.' And it was like, wow. And they said, 'Well, why don't you tell him?' and she was like, 'What is he here?'

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: And then I came out and then she- you should have seen her face, it was absolutely beautiful.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Aw.

JAY BLADES: But yeah, she's a real gem. Real gem.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Aw, she's... have you met her Ange?

ANGELA HARTNETT: A few times. She's just the loveliest, loveliest person.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Aw.

ANGELA HARTNETT: She really is. She sent me flowers after this lunch she had at Murano. Yeah.

JAY BLADES: Did you cook for her?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, a few times, yeah.

JAY BLADES: You didn't keep her waiting though, did you?

ANGELA HARTNETT: No, I didn't keep her waiting, Jay. Oof, no.

JAY BLADES: No, I'm just saying.

[Dinner table sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Right, here we go.

JAY BLADES: That's it, thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Food is served.

JAY BLADES: Let's see that there.

ANGELA HARTNETT: There you go. Jay.

JAY BLADES: Oh, look at that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow, Ange, this looks really good.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, really good.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Really good.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Really good.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow, so we've got, got a full sea bream.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: With brown butter champ and charred salad onions.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yep.

JAY BLADES: What is champ?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, what is champ?

ANGELA HARTNETT: So champ I think is like, like the Irish dish, I may be wrong here, but it's always with-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ah, champ.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -spring onions, cabbage, anything like that, or leeks. So basically mashed potato with leeks.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh yeah, I like a bit of champ.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, do you like that? And burnt butter means it's like a brown butter. So you take it to the point that it's just about to burn and that gives you that nuttiness in it, yeah.

JAY BLADES: Nuttiness.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wait. That potato, oh my God. Do you know what's so funny? When I came in today?

JAY BLADES: Mm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I just was in France and I told Angela about this potato that I had and I said it was the best potato I've ever had, and I feel like that sparked something inside of you.

JAY BLADES: Yeah. She said, right.

NICK GRIMSHAW: She said, f*** that. Because that is the best potato I've ever had.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Competition.

NICK GRIMSHAW: This is so good. Talk to me about champ. How did you make that so delicious?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Just mashed potato.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: The butter, as I said, you take a bit of butter, about fifty grams, take that to the point as it starts to bubble and go brown, you call that beurre noisette. And then in another pan with some milk, I've got the salad onions, these spring onions, all the white bits chopped up finely.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And they're being cooked in the milk, and you- then you add that with the butter to the mashed potato.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow. This is a really good meal. This is like a good spring meal.

ANGELA HARTNETT: This is impressive, 'cause people think you've done a lot of work, but actually, it's not a lot of work. It's quite easy.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And then with a little endive salad.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. And then you just flip it over when you do wanna eat the other side.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm. Absolutely delicious. If you want to try this [waitrose.com/dishrecipes](https://www.waitrose.com/dishrecipes). All the ingredients used, of course are from Waitrose, and you can go on there, if you wanna do the recipe, it's as easy as Angela makes it, although Ang does make everything sound really easy, like-

JAY BLADES: Tell me about it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: 'A bit of butter, a bit of dill.'

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: 'Five minutes each side'

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's really good.

JAY BLADES: Yeah. Cut this bit out, f*** me this is nice.

[*Laughter*]

JAY BLADES: You know when you're hungry-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Hey, let's keep that bit in.

JAY BLADES: You know when you're hungry.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: And it's like this is a dish that I know I wanted to eat, but I never knew I wanted to. I never knew I was gonna be here.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: This is absolutely perfect. I love fish. At home I always have fish.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Nice.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do you?

JAY BLADES: Always.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That's what we want.

JAY BLADES: I'm quite boring, I have the same-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, I love fish.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That's alright.

JAY BLADES: And then I have a steak- I gotta have steak and chicken once a month, but it's mainly fish.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right, nice.

JAY BLADES: But this is gorgeous. Wow.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ange, tell us how to make this then.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So it's-

NICK GRIMSHAW: How would you do?

ANGELA HARTNETT: So it's whole sea bream.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You take-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Just go to the fish counter and ask for the sea bream?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, whole sea bream. Make sure it's gutted and scaled and they've snipped all the fins off for you. Then take some dill, butter, lemon rind, mix that all together, loads of chopped dill. And then basically inside the cavity of the fish, and I put some on top as well.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And basically you've slashed it, so you've made some incisions in the skin so it all goes through the skin. And then under the grill for about five minutes each side 'til it has that lovely little-

JAY BLADES: Is that all?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, it's not long.

JAY BLADES: Five minutes?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. Each side, so it's about ten, twelve minutes, yeah.

JAY BLADES: What?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. Honestly.

JAY BLADES: To cook it like that?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: What, that took-

ANGELA HARTNETT: About twelve minutes twelve, fifteen- fifteen max? Where's Sam? Yeah, exactly, fifteen max.

JAY BLADES: Wow.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow, so what were we waiting for?

[Laughter]

[Drink pouring sounds]

NICK GRIMSHAW: What wine do you think's good with this?

ANGELA HARTNETT: We've got Patricius Tokaj, which is this Hungarian wine. Lovely dry white wine, 2021, available at Waitrose.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Very nice.

JAY BLADES: And if you don't like wine you can have a cup of Rosie Lee, they've got tea bags at Waitrose as well.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: But they've upset you, Waitrose. What don't they have do you?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah what's your beef with Waitrose?

ANGELA HARTNETT: There's a beef we heard, which isn't beef, obviously.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, no, it ain't beef. I used to come to Waitrose almost every day.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

JAY BLADES: And they used to have a Bakewell tart and the Bakewell tart, I loved it. I couldn't get enough 'cause they used to sell a Duchy one and the Duchy one went, I dunno what happened to it, it just went and then Waitrose did their own. Gorgeous little thing, it was. I mean, you can put it in the oven, like someone like me who doesn't cook, I loved it. Then I went in there to get me Bakewell tart and it wasn't there. I asked the counter, 'Where's the Bakewell tart?' 'Oh, we stopped doing it.' I said, 'Why'd you stop doing it?' 'Oh, it wasn't a best seller.' I was the only one buying it. Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I can't quite believe in the whole of the UK.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, well I tried it- it's a local one in Wolverhampton that stopped doing it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right, okay.

JAY BLADES: And Wolverhampton might not be a....

NICK GRIMSHAW: The Bakewell region.

JAY BLADES: Yeah. So basically I went to another one, they stopped doing- they stopped doing it all over.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No.

JAY BLADES: Gutted. Personally - I do have an MBE, and I do know Dame Judi Dench, and I also know Sir David-

ANGELA HARTNETT: You know The King.

JAY BLADES: I know The King as well. Bakewell Tart back on the menu. Back on the shelves.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, please. Come on, make it happen.

[*Salt grinder sounds*]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Hey!

ANGELA HARTNETT: Hey!

NICK GRIMSHAW: I know what you need to tell Jay.

JAY BLADES: Oh?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You've got something you want fixing.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So who-

JAY BLADES: Oh do ya?

ANGELA HARTNETT: So who can fix like a pane of glass?

JAY BLADES: Oh, that's easy.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Is it?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Well give him the backstory, like the story on The Repair Shop. Come on.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Okay so the backstory-

JAY BLADES: I got broken into last week....

ANGELA HARTNETT: So my grandparents emigrated from Italy.

JAY BLADES: Alright.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So they came, they emigrated from Italy and they ended up running fish and chip shops, and they ran one in East London in Becontree.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Can I ask you a question that might be stupid?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do they have chippies in Italy?

ANGELA HARTNETT: No. It's ironic.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No.

ANGELA HARTNETT: All of them came over and did like cafes and chippies.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Quite mad innit, to leave delicious Italian cuisine and be like, let's fry potatoes.

JAY BLADES: Fry that fish to death.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, I know. But they- and there were three brothers and the one had one in Barking, one in Becontree, and one in Dagenham. And then, anyway, eventually they all retired, sold up, but we- there were some lovely panes of glass, which they would have hanging up, you know?

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And my uncle gave me one from the fish and chip shop and it had pictures of the fish and everything, and it was beautiful and very retro and a bit sort of kitsch and stuff. Anyway, I had it at home, meaning that one day I was gonna put it up somewhere, and of course the builder broke the bottom of it.

JAY BLADES: Oh, wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So I've got a pane like this side and then a bag of just broken bits of glass.

JAY BLADES: Not good.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Not good. So I need to know who can fix all that together.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, that's Matt, ...- stained glass.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Matt, okay.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, I'll put you in contact with him.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Will you? Do you mind?

JAY BLADES: Yeah yeah, no, straight up.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Thank you.

JAY BLADES: He's, yeah, he's a, he's a good geezer, he does a lot of cathedrals and whatever.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: So is it hand-painted or is it like, the actual pictures on there?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I think it's hand painted.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: Matt's your man. Alright.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And you know when it's not clear, what's that word? When it's like-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Like frosted?

JAY BLADES: Opaque?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Frosted, like it's frosted at the bottom. Yeah.

JAY BLADES: So this was on the front door then or something?

ANGELA HARTNETT: So, so basically it was either on the front door of the fish and chip shop or sometimes, you know, when you have bits like where the till was.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And then they'd go into the little restaurant bit.

JAY BLADES: So it's a proper fish and chip shop.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh yeah, proper fish and chip shop. And then what-the worst is, we were over at Christmas at my aunt's place and she got one, and my uncle's put it up and it all looks amazing, and everyone's going, 'Oh, look at that. Where's yours, Angela, where's yours?' I'm like, oh God! And I'm like, yeah, yeah, we're gonna do that, and I'm lying through my teeth again, you know, it's all, so now...

NICK GRIMSHAW: Well, why don't we strike a deal here.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Angela, you get Jay's Bakewell tart back in Waitrose.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes, let's do it.

JAY BLADES: Please, that'll be cool.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Or otherwise I'll just make them for you, I'll send them you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, trade off.

JAY BLADES: That's what I always get shocked about, you can make Bakewell tarts, can you?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes you can, yes.

JAY BLADES: It doesn't register with me, you know what I mean?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Alright, maybe that's an easier trade-off. If you get the glass fixed, and Ange you make Jay a Bakewell tart.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I'll make you a Bakewell tart.

JAY BLADES: Okay, for how long though?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, a few.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, quite a few.

JAY BLADES: I used to have one a week.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah that's what, I'll keep going, I'll do a few.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Fifty-two?

JAY BLADES: Whoa, that's a deal, I like that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Fifty-two? Yeah, let's do a year's Bakewell tart.

NICK GRIMSHAW: A year's worth of Bakewell tarts.

JAY BLADES: No problem. I can do that. I'll sort that right out.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Thank you. Right, let's as well as Angela -needing something repairing -

ANGELA HARTNETT: Thank you.

JAY BLADES: You as well.

NICK GRIMSHAW: - we actually do need to talk about The Repair Shop.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -as a programme as well, or people will, you know -

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: - People will complain. BAFTA winning!

ANGELA HARTNETT: Woo!

[Applause]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, they won the BAFTA. They won the BAFTA.

JAY BLADES: They won the BAFTA.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do they tell you before, like when you've got the night, do they say like, you might win this or was it proper surprise?

JAY BLADES: No it's proper surprise?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Amazing.

JAY BLADES: I mean, it, it's a proper- it's a bit like the, what's that one other one we won, is it the NTAs? The National-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh yeah, the NTAs.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

JAY BLADES: So it's- they don't tell you, you know what I mean? It's just like they keep it secret and then like you find out and then you're like, what? We really have won? Cause the BAFTA is a big deal. We went there.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That's huge.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh yeah.

JAY BLADES: I think we went there one year and we never won.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

JAY BLADES: And I hate not winning.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Who were you up against? Who were your competitors?

JAY BLADES: That was the daytime one. So you're up against kind of like The Chase, This Morning.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Okay, right.

JAY BLADES: The regulars.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: God.

JAY BLADES: And I'm, I'm a bit of a sore loser. I'm not competitive, but I'm a bit of a sore loser.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: So one time we was at an RTS one, and I- yeah, we didn't win. So as we didn't win, I just walked out.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

[*Cutlery sounds*]

NICK GRIMSHAW: I know who we need to talk about. The governor.

ANGELA HARTNETT: The governor.

NICK GRIMSHAW: As Jay called him.

JAY BLADES: The boss.

NICK GRIMSHAW: The boss, aka The King. MBE, congratulations.

JAY BLADES: Thank you very much. Very kind of you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Congratulations.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Angela MBE.

JAY BLADES: Ooh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Thank you very much, thank you.

JAY BLADES: What did you get your one for? Was it for cooking?

ANGELA HARTNETT: For, for, yeah, services to hospitality. I do a bit, quite a bit of charity work and then sort of, like supporting it, like you give back to the industry that...

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I think we all look back and go, God, we're lucky. You know?

JAY BLADES: No, we are lucky.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No so I think sometimes, you know, as my, my mate always said, he goes, we are kings, you know, compared to a lot of people.

JAY BLADES: Oh, bless, yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And he's right, so you- I always think if your industry's done good by you, you should give something back.

JAY BLADES: Mm-hm. Oh, look at you. You're a nice person.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I know.

JAY BLADES: Let's go over to Nick.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes. What have you done?

[Laughter]

JAY BLADES: I'm just asking.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I think it's coming.

JAY BLADES: Is your, is your charity work coming?

NICK GRIMSHAW: I think it's coming, yeah, I think it's coming.

ANGELA HARTNETT: He's gonna be knighted.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Knighted.

JAY BLADES: Oh, he's gonna be knighted?

ANGELA HARTNETT: He's going right up.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Straight up.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right up, none of them.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Now you had, Angela had your MBE given by The King himself.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes, I did.

JAY BLADES: Oh, nice.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. And of course, The King came on The Repair Shop.

JAY BLADES: Yes, yeah, he did.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How, how was it meeting... mad question, how was it meeting The King?

JAY BLADES: How was it mee- well, he was a Prince then when we met him. What was weird is that we went up there and the producers were really worried about me meeting him and so on and so forth.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Why?

JAY BLADES: I, I don't know.

ANGELA HARTNETT: What did they think you were going to do?

JAY BLADES: No, producers sometimes worry unnecessarily.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: Cause you just let people just talk, just let 'em have a chin wag, they're cool, they can do it. But we had to rehearse- cor blimey, I think it was two days.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

JAY BLADES: So I had someone pretending to be the Prince, as he was then, walking around and all that kind of stuff. And basically, he never did any of the stuff that we rehearsed to do.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: He just did his own thing. And it was just, it was absolutely fine. He was, and still is a real gem, so much so that me and him got on, yeah he asked me to host his 75th birthday party.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, wow!

JAY BLADES: But it's, it's surreal. You know, when you get a real- well, what- I'm saying it like, you know, but you know, when you get a phone call from one of The King's assistants and says, 'Oh, Jay, His Majesty would like you to host his 75th birthday party.' And I'm like, 'Are you for real?' And I know the person, so I'm like, this must be real 'cause they don't ring you up and ask that anyway.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, they're not like a little bit of a joke.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, a little joke, oh April Fool's.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

JAY BLADES: So basically, I went up there and did it and they said to me, well look, he's inviting people from the Windrush generation 'cause it wa- it was all the seventy-fifth year, the NHS and then people from the local community who've been doing above and beyond, like charity work and what have you, especially during Covid. So he said to me, not The King, but his assistant said to me, they don't know he's coming. So you do the rounds and speaking to all the people, and then he comes in after, like I introduce him, so I'm like the warm-up act.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

JAY BLADES: You know what I mean? And then he comes in, speaks to everybody. It was, it was a surreal moment. There was a time when he was walking around and I was with him, and then I'm just looking and I'm like, hold

on, that's The King. You know what I mean? You know when it, it didn't really dawn on me before.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: But it's only then you are looking around and you're looking at how people look at him, and then you're like, I'm kind of, I'm, I'm all right with The King.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: This is, this is crazy. And me and him did get on like a house on fire.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Well I imagine The Repair Shop's really up his street. 'cause-

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Way before everyone started talking about climate change-

JAY BLADES: Tell me about it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -and looking after the environment and, you know, being more sustainable, he's been doing it.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I mean, he's been doing it for the last fifty years. And so something like that where you are, you know, restoring stuff-

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -will be absolutely, I imagine, what he loves.

JAY BLADES: He, he loves it like you wouldn't believe. And up in, um, Scotland in Dumfries house, he runs a place up there, The King's Foundation. And basically it's all about teaching these heritage crafts and making sure they stay alive. So he's not only behind it, he's actually putting his money where his mouth is, so basically doing the job.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: And we had a proper chinwag.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I bet.

JAY BLADES: I mean, no one, I think it's, it's the BBC said this to me, that they never have seen him so relaxed since he was at that show that he did with us. He's just super relaxed 'cause he is in his element.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love the idea of him being like, 'Oh, let's get The Repair Shop on.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, exactly. Him and Camilla with the dogs.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Get a little brew, getting ready to watch The Repair Shop.

JAY BLADES: Just sit down there, just sit down.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Exactly, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Exactly. It's good telly.

[*Glass clinking sound*]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Let's talk about, um, your new show.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

JAY BLADES: Yes, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That you are doing with a legend, David Jason.

JAY BLADES: Let me tell you something, that geezer, I call him DJ. That's, he's-

ANGELA HARTNETT: I can't wait for the nickname he's gonna make up about us, got the governor, the DJ, what's going on [*laughs*]

JAY BLADES: But DJ, he's absolutely, he's as sharp as a tack. I mean, like this guy, he's a comedy legend, but one of the things I must say to him, I take on board, he's 83 years old, and he done something he's never done in his entire career, he done unscripted. So basically, throughout his career he reads a script, they tell him what to say and all that kinda stuff, so he's acting in that. But this time we just wanted him, and he was so much like out of- it was like a fish out of water.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: It was kind of uncomfortable, first of all, I would say for about an hour. And then he realised, and remember he said something to me, he goes, you are a brilliant double act. Because it's like, 'I say something' - is what he said, 'and then you have something to say straight away.'

ANGELA HARTNETT: You react, yeah.

JAY BLADES: Whereas he's thinking of, what was the script he's gotta remember, and all that kind of stuff.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And what's the premise of the show? Explain it to us.

JAY BLADES: Well, the, well the show is basically, it's up skilling people. So there's people that come along who are tinkerers.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

JAY BLADES: So they make stuff in either their shed, their bedroom, or wherever they make it. So, for instance, we had a lady who came along who makes puppets.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

JAY BLADES: And she didn't know how to get the puppets to move, they- she wanted 'em to be animated. So then we team her up with an expert who makes puppets and shows her, alright, this is where you add the strings, this is where you add the motor and this is what you do. So almost everybody leaves us being up-skilled, so they learn something-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Craft, yeah.

JAY BLADES: And then they can go on and continue doing what they're doing, keep on tinkering in a way, shape, or form.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Fantastic.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love the idea of that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love the idea of that. Do you know what's so funny? The- Only Fools and Horses, my brother, it's like whenever I think of David, Jason, I think of, of my brother. Cause he's, he's fourteen- thirteen, fourteen years older than me.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And he loves it and it's never, ever not on, right.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So now you know it's always on like, Gold or something.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah, UK Gold, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's like, always on. And we've seen every episode and he is obsessed with it. So when I heard you're doing this show, I had to ring my brother and be like-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, tell him.

NICK GRIMSHAW: There's a new David Jason offering for you.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You don't have to watch Only Fools and Horses.

JAY BLADES: And he is sharp.

NICK GRIMSHAW: From the eighties. So if you've not seen it, go check it out, David and Jay's Touring Toolshed, you can see it on iPlayer right now. The whole series is up there, right?

JAY BLADES: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Go and check it out.

[*Pouring sound*]

NICK GRIMSHAW: DIY. How does it go down in your house Ange? Are you-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Well...

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Put it like this. There was a-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, that was an exhale.

JAY BLADES: It was, wasn't it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: There was this big picture that Neil and I were trying to put up, and I think first of all, fatal to do it in a partnership like hus- either the guy does it, the wife does it, whoever wants to do it, the partner does it, but doing it together is a nightmare.

JAY BLADES: It's a nightmare.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Is a nightmare, yeah.

JAY BLADES: Nightmare.

ANGELA HARTNETT: It's a nightmare because I'm sitting, going, you need to do this, and he's going, no, you need to do that. We were supposed to be going for dinner at seven-thirty, we ended up an hour late 'cause neither of us would leave this house 'til we got this picture up. We took it down the other day because we were painting the room...there's about twelve holes in the wall.

JAY BLADES: Holes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And we realised how bad it was.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Disastrous.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Because we just could not figure out the- I mean, we were just stupid. So now I just-

JAY BLADES: No, no, you're not stupid, you've never done it. I bet you can cook amazingly.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: As you can.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Thank you.

JAY BLADES: But with doing DIY, it's just a skill.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You can't do everything,

JAY BLADES: You can't do everything, you're right Nick, you can't.

ANGELA HARTNETT: But you sort of like, you know, I feel like I'm failing if I have to call someone to put a picture up, you know, I should be able to do that.

JAY BLADES: That is a bit strong, yeah, to call someone a put picture.

NICK GRIMSHAW: A picture, it's just a nail.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No, but the thing is, because we've got an old house, if you knock a nail into our wall, it starts to crumble.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ah, yeah, yeah.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah, it will crumble.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And it's that whole sort of thing, you know. I saw a bit of crumbling wall at my mum's the other day, and I just put something in front of it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: DIY.

JAY BLADES: DIY.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I won't deal with that, that's something...

NICK GRIMSHAW: Put a plant in front of it. Something like that, yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Anyway, I'll be sending you her address Jay, if you don't mind popping round.

JAY BLADES: Oh, bless you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I can only do like low-level stuff.

JAY BLADES: Low level, you're right.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Hold on, you and Mesh painted your hall - you were amazing with all your stuff.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, but I was only allowed to do like the middle, so Mesh was like, don't do the edges, don't go to the bottom, and I was painting and he, and he came over to, and he came over to me and he- I was painting one side and he was doing up the stairs, and he went, he went, 'I'm saying this with love.'

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh God.

NICK GRIMSHAW: 'When you're painting it,' I said, 'Yeah,' he went, 'Are you thinking let me do this good, or let me do this quick?'

ANGELA HARTNETT: Ooh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And I went, I went, 'Let me do it quick,' and he was like-

ANGELA HARTNETT: You can tell.

NICK GRIMSHAW: 'I'll just do it, let me just do it.'

JAY BLADES: Yeah, let me do it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: He was like, 'Make it good.' And I was like, 'Nah, It'll be alright.'

ANGELA HARTNETT: I'm a bit like that, I'm like that.

But I, I like doing it, but I'm just not very good at it. But I think it's a wonderful thing to do, like if you build summat or painting your house, like I love that feeling that you've achieved something.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Skill, you've achieved something.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I think it's really good to like ground you, and, mentally.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, no, it is. One of the things I've, when I first started getting into like D- well, I've been doing DIY for a long time and then I taught young people how to restore and revamp old furniture, and there's a lot of young people who are not great academically.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: But they're brilliant at making stuff with their hands and fixing things. And when you see their faces with that sense of achievement as in 'Oh, I did that,' that's the joy of making and DIY. I think if you can make something or you get good at it, it's a case of, it will really make you feel good all the time when you look at that piece of furniture. Or if you put a picture up the right way and it hasn't got like twelve holes behind it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I'm gonna try that this year, I'm gonna try and do it.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah, it's, there's easy ways, there's easy ways to do it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, okay.

JAY BLADES: Really.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's a good feeling, 'cause sometimes with, with school work or learning at school, certain things I'd be like, what is this?

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Like what is al- like, what is algebra?

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Like what am I learning it?

JAY BLADES: Yeah, what am I gonna use that for?

NICK GRIMSHAW: What am gonna use that for?

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And then there's a feeling of when you've done something you physically see and a lot throughout my life through whatever I've done, like radio, you know, you put your work into it and then you do it and it's just gone. So there's never anything tangible left. So whenever I do do something like decorate a spare room, I'm like, wow.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, I get that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I feel prouder than that of like doing the radio for years.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, course.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Cause I can like see it and be in it, and use it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: But that's interesting what you said, 'cause reading your biography and when you know how your schooling was.

JAY BLADES: Yeah. Bit naughty.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Well also you got to a stage where no teacher actually diagnosed that you were dyslexic or anything.

JAY BLADES: No, no.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And they didn't understand the skills behind what you had there in these hands, you know, there's a natural skill there.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So, and you, you look back and you think, well, why, if someone was teaching Jay how to build something, they would've clicked.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You know, instead of- and it's a bit like, why in maths do they teach algebra? Why don't they teach people how to actually do the sums for a week's shopping, or I- learn how to pay your rent.

JAY BLADES: Or your tax returns.

NICK GRIMSHAW: What's a mortgage?

ANGELA HARTNETT: What is-

JAY BLADES: What's a mortgage, yeah, yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: What's practical.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I need that lesson now.

JAY BLADES: Look at you.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Now you've got The King's ear, Jay, I feel you should be influencing the curriculum of the next generation.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Do you know what I mean.

JAY BLADES: I don't think he's got the power to dabble in the curriculum, but it is- I have worked at a number of schools and the sad thing is that we're teaching eight and nine-year-olds for jobs that don't really exist.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: They're gonna create the future jobs.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

JAY BLADES: But what the educational system works on a lot is more intelligent minds. And they're not thinking about intelligent hands. And those people that can make stuff and do things.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: And that's the sad state of affairs.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: So it's, it's one of those things where I, I try my best not to get involved in politics, a bit like, what the governor does, you just get up and do it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, of course.

JAY BLADES: You, I mean, just do it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

JAY BLADES: And then once they see what you're doing, then they jump on board.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, exactly.

JAY BLADES: And try to copy or support you in some way, shape, or form. Yeah. So I'll just do it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Just do it. We'll follow you.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Me and Nick will be at the back of the class. Come on Nick, we can do this.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, we can do this.

ANGELA HARTNETT: He's putting a picture up.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Right, we have our end of show question for you, Jay.

JAY BLADES: Okay.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I'm gonna open this envelope, read you this question.

JAY BLADES: Okay.

NICK GRIMSHAW: If you choose to answer it, you will be going home today with a Waitrose goodie bag.

JAY BLADES: Oh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Right now, 'Jay, you are hailed as the saviour of our stuff, but to win a Waitrose goodie bag, can you tell us about one of your personal DIY disasters.'

JAY BLADES: Oh, DIY disasters...

NICK GRIMSHAW: Have you tried restoring anything that actually you were like, this needs to go in the bin now. I've destroyed it.

JAY BLADES: Yeah. Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Has that ever happened?

JAY BLADES: Yes, it has happened actually. So I had this table once and I decided that I'm gonna rub it down, paint it all black, and so on and so forth. I got the table donated to me and I remember when we painted it black, one of the young people pulled out a drawer and they said, 'Oh Jay, what's this on the side?' And I was like, oh, I dunno what it is, there's a sign on the side of it, I dunno what it is. I'll check it out. So they were kind of savvy with the internet when I- 'Jay I think this is worth some money. Do you wanna ring someone? Cause they've got a table just like this one.' And I said, 'Well, it won't be worth anything,' he goes, 'No, ring this guy,' so I rang this guy in Scotland and he said to me what the actual thing was. It was some really expensive table, I had painted this table in lovely black, with mint green drawers. The table was originally without doing anything to it, was worth £25,000.

ANGELA HARTNETT: [*Gasps*] No!

JAY BLADES: And I painted it black and I told the geezer, 'Oh I painted it black mate, and I've done the drawers really nice, I'm gonna put some new handles on there,' and he goes- and what he said to me, this antique dealer, he said, he called me a couple of names, first of all, because it was a Scottish designer and he effed and blinded, and he said, 'Well, look, all seriousness, that table is probably worth about fifteen quid now.'

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh no.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ohh ...Jay. You could have sanded it down?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Sand it off!

JAY BLADES: No, 'cause I, I had already told him what I had done, and the thing about it with like restoration or antiques, if you rub it all down, you've got rid of the original varnish, the original patina, etc, etc.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right, okay.

JAY BLADES: So I made it like nice and smooth, that was- yeah, that one I'm not really proud of.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No.

JAY BLADES: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You still got it?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Jesus.

JAY BLADES: No, we sold it. We sold it for fifty quid actually. It's not good.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's not great. Just a loss of twenty-four and a half thousand pounds.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, yeah. A lot of money, Nick. A lot of money.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow. That is a bad disaster, I thought you were gonna be like, oh yeah, I chipped a thing once. No, no, no, no.

JAY BLADES: No.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ruined a twenty-five grand table.

JAY BLADES: And the charity could have done with that money.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ugh.

JAY BLADES: And that's what we did after, we started checking all of the donations that we had.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Quick Google. Quick Google.

JAY BLADES: Yeah, just a quick, just a quick search.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Just a quick search, quick search. Amazing story. You do win the goodie bag.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes, yes.

JAY BLADES: Oh, thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. Ruined the table, but the bag is yours.

JAY BLADES: There's not twenty-five grand in there, is there?

NICK GRIMSHAW: There is in the bottom, yeah, yeah. Yeah, we just thought we'd throw it in. Jay, thank you for coming to see us.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You've been amazing.

JAY BLADES: Thank you, thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It was wonderful to spend time with you.

JAY BLADES: Bless you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Round of applause for our guest, Jay Blades everybody!

[Applause]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Thank you, Jay.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Thank you, Jay.

JAY BLADES: Thank you, thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That is an amazing story.

JAY BLADES: And Waitrose, don't forget my Bakewell tart.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Bakewell Tarts. We're on it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Coming up next week, a legend of the podcast game, Elizabeth Day.

CLIP

ELIZABETH DAY: Champagne, crab and a vodka martini.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I know on a Friday afternoon.

ELIZABETH DAY: Do I have to sleep with you?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Noooo

ANGELA HARTNETT: No, no nothing like that.

ELIZABETH DAY: Coz I'm up for it.

(Laughter)

NICK GRIMSHAW: If you are looking for some inspiration for dinner this week, check out [waitrose.com/dishrecipes](https://www.waitrose.com/dishrecipes) for all the meals that Angela has made on the podcast. If you love Dish, please do let us know, leave as a review wherever you listen to your podcasts.

Angela and I are here for you if you wanna ask a question or get something off your chest - kitchen related - it's dish@waitrose.co.uk

ANGELA HARTNETT: Dish is a SE Creative studio production

VOICEOVER: Waitrose, food to feel good about.