# Vanessa Williams, tomato & vodka bucatini with crispy pancetta pangritata and a barbera



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

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

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And I'm Angela Hartnett.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** We are here for another week on Dish.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Mmm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Um, if you are watching this, you'll be able to see that it looks dead Christmassy.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Very.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** If you are listening to it, you'll just be able to sense that it's very festive in here.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** [*laughs*] In what sense? Have we got jingle bells? Santa?

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** It just feels Christmassy. Yeah, we're going to put jingle bells over it in the edit.

[*sleigh bells*]

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding, ding.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Ding, ding, ding, ding ding.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Marvellous.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Um, no, it's definitely Christmassy in here. The tree is up. The fairy lights are up. There's some tinsel around a lamp over there.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh gosh, yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** There's a poinsettia.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh my lord.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Over there. It feels Christmassy.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah, it’s that flower, isn’t it-

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I'm excited for it now, I'm here.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** -you see that ever- I've never knew what that was called, that…

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Poinsettia.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Wow.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** My dad used to love a poinsettia.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I've never had one in my house, there you go.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh, well, do you know what? You can-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Don’t want one this year.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Why?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** No.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Why?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I love flowers.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yes.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I'm not an indoor plant person.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** That is an interesting fact.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Why not?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I'm always having arguments with Salvatore about this.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Why?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Well he loves a plant and my sister does, she's got plants that have taken over her living room.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** You don't like plants?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I love plants but in the garden or in the outside.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Uh-huh.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I don't necessarily want them in the house.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** You want them free range.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** But I love flowers.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Right.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So you can buy me bunches of flowers-

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Okay.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** -but no poinsettias.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Okay, alright. Forget it guys, we'd all chipped in to get you one!

[*laughter*]

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Take it back.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh get it back, straight in the skip.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Well welcome to Dish everybody. Big day today-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** -it is our 100th episode of Dish.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** You don't care do you?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I do care, that's not fair!

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Everyone now comes up to me and they go, ‘Oh, we know you don't really like doing Dish,’ I'm going, ‘I don't dislike doing Dish!’

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** But do you love it?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I don't love it probably as much as you - as you.

[*laughter*]

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** As you. But you're like, your enthusiasm for just putting a pancake in a pan is beyond my levels of enthusiasm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** [*laughs*]

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So we're not comparing like with like.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** But you just-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** For my level of likeness, I love it. Alright. There you go, there you go.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Okay, that's good to know. I love, ‘I don't dislike it.’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** [*laughs*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** ‘Don't dislike it.’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** A hundred -

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** But I guess you have a harder day in the office than me.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I mean, you've got prep you've got to do-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Well our days, your day is already, you've done your day's work.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** You've already been on the radio.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** You do this and you're off.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm-hm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I then have to go and work after this.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** It's a different, it's fine.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** We’re ships in the night.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Exactly.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Essentially, yeah. We are, we are.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** We could live together, it'd be perfect.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** It actually would be perfect. Never see each other.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Marvellous.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Never see each other. But yeah, um, 100th episode, so happy hundred episodes.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Happy birthday.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Happy birthday. Hundred sounds….

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Like we’ve been doing this forever.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Like a lot. I'd say we've done about thirty-five. That’s what it feels like.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes, it doesn't feel like that.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** No. Ange is like, ‘It does.’ Um, because the tree is up and the lights are up, obviously Christmas is approaching.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Mm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** We're starting to see Christmas food. Have you had anything Christmassy yet? Have you had like a little mince pie or anything?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** No, no, no. Have I had anything Christmassy? No, not yet.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** What will you most be up for having?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I do love, my mum makes brilliant mince pies, I'll be up for that. I love that.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Pig in a blanket?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Not necessarily.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** No.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I like a roast parsnip, love a roast parsnip.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh yeah. But I have a parsnip off season as well.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Off season, okay, yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I like a parsnip.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** What are you doing, what's your bird of choice this year, or your meat?

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** My mum-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Or maybe you're going vegan?

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** M… Melinda Messenger!

[*laughter*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** My mum, my mum is doing um, a turkey crown.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh, okay.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** She's already told me.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Okay.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** So what is that, a turkey without the legs?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes, basically, yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Because it is Christmas, we've started to see Christmas food everywhere.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Mm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** ‘Tis the season. We're having today, pre-our guest, some Scottish shortbread.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Scottish shortbread.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Scottish shortbread. Which I found really hard to say apparently. Scottish shortbread.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So what, what do you have in your mum's house or your house that you never-

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Shortbread.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** No.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Listen. Like that comes into the house for Christmas that has no relevance to being in your house, that’s suddenly there, like nuts.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** My mum would never buy a Pringle.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And suddenly you have Pringles.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And then at Christmas she's like, ‘Pringles, everyone!’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** [*laughs*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Fizzy drinks.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Wow.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Never allowed a fizzy drink-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I’m with your mum on that one.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** -but she'd get fizzy drinks in.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Wow.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Um, so like a can of Coke.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Actually I'm with your mum there, I never have fizzy drinks in our house and the only time of year I ever buy it is because I think people are coming over, better have a bit of Diet Coke, better have a bit of this.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm-hm, yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And then it just sits there for the rest of the year, cause we never drink it.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** That's exactly what my mum does, yeah. ‘There's some in there from last Christmas.’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah [*laughs*].

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And nuts, yeah, like walnuts.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** But actually in the shells, that's what amazes me.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah and then you're like, we don't even have a nutcracker.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** We don’t even have a nutcracker.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And they just sit there in a bowl for like two weeks.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah, till like March.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah [*laughs*].

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Shall we bin these? Um, well we're having a bit of shortbread because ‘tis the season.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** ‘Tis the season.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** We've all got involved. I've had quite a lot of it actually.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes, you were hungry after your early start.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I was, I was hungry.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** You were like scavenging.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I've had like eight pieces of shortbread, which is the perfect starter, I feel, before Dish.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Marvellous.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** So today we have Vanessa Williams come in to see us. But first, should we have some listener questions? First up, Annie has been on, who says, ‘Hello Angela and Nick, I love listening to Dish, your banter, the guests, the recipes, of course. But I wanted to give a special shout out to the crew.’?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Ooo!

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** What?

[*applause*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Wait, this is Annie who's the part of the crew! No I’m kidding. Um, she says, ‘Just hearing them laugh and clap in the background tells you all you need to know about the camaraderie between you all.’ Oh.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Aw, isn't that lovely?

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh. ‘My question is this, we asked our son-in-law what we could cook him for his 40th birthday meal and he requested arancini without a second thought, but we want to serve it as a main. But what to go with it?’ says Annie.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Well-

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Well you can have whatever you want. I like that he was like, arancini, for his birthday. Because it's your birthday. So have whatever you want.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Like your chips birthday cake.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Exactly.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I was like, do I like cake? No.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** No.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Do I like chips? Yes.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Perfect.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah. And I remember calling you before my birthday.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Because it was pasta and…

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And I just wanted to do pasta and pasta.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I wanted to do a pasta starter and a pasta main.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And you were like, ‘You can do that if you want.’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And it was perfect.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** It was perfect.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Did anyone complain?

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** No, not to my face.

[*laughs*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** No. Um, but what would you do with arancini? Is it, would you do them big? Like sort of a scotch egg?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Exactly that, I think.

[*laughs*]

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** No, yeah, you laugh, that's how they sell them in Sicily.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh okay.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** They're big like that, and what they do is put a filling in. So I would do lots of different flavours. Classic, do a lovely meat filling, like make a like a meat stew.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Set it, and then put it and then fold the rice or wrap the rice all around the arancini. But when you fry them, you've got to have your oven on because they're going to have to go through the oven to really make sure they're hot in the middle. And then do different flavours, then you-

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** So cook your stew.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Cook your stew, make that as your filling, or any meat filling, you know, whatever, you can have lamb or you could make a vegetarian one and stuff. And just make sure that you fry them in your oil and then put them through the oven to make sure they're hot in the middle.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Okay, nice.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah, I think they'd be good. And then with the salad, I think. Or loads of roasted vegetables or something like that.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm!

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Because it's big an arancini.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yes.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Very substantial.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And you've got your meat and your carb together.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah, exactly, yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah, like a nice good salad.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah, be great.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Something a bit sharp maybe.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes, a bit chicory.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** You're laughing there.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Or loads of them and you could do it like a Ferrero Rocher, er, pyramid.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh yes [*laughs*].

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** The ones at the bottom might be a little squashed, but it could work. Be nice.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah, something like that, yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And I think have some dip things with it.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Ooh like what?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** You know, well, you could have, like if you did a mushroom one, you could have a bit of a truffle mayonnaise, with the meat one you could have a bit of aioli. So, you know, there's something that's soft, you know. If you did a veggie one, you could have just a really thick tomato sauce, that sort of thing. Sausage arancini is lovely.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Ooh, yes.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** If you don't want to make the filling, the other easier thing to do is you're cooking your rice and then put your flavouring in that rice. So if it's sausage, then cook the sausage off, add your rice, you're making your risotto, and then all the flavours there and you just roll the whole thing after.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh, yeah, so-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** -its more of like, infused, as opposed to a filling.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah, exactly, yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Good luck with that. Let us know how you get on, please and pop an arancini ball in the post to us, please.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** [*laughs*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Um, if you want to send us arancini or any questions for us, [dish@waitrose.co.uk](mailto:dish@waitrose.co.uk) is the way to do it. Um, Vanessa Williams is going to be here. A real, bit of a superstar, I feel, is Vanessa Williams.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Huge superstar.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** More than a triple threat, she was Miss America.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Huge.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I know.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Absolutely huge. You will have seen her in Ugly Betty.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** You will have seen her in Desperate Housewives. Currently starring as Miranda Priestly in The Devil Wears Prada in the West End in London at the Dominion. You went to see it last night.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I did.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** How was it?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** She was brilliant.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I want to go and see it, I’m sad I couldn't come.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah, it was brilliant. I'd love to ask her, or I will ask her if we have time, is how the amazing costume changes. Because they obviously had one crew, but they were playing various roles in it. So one minute they're all dressed as doctors. Another minute they're all dressed as models, but the hair, the makeup, they looked absolutely, there must've been about a hundred people backstage just redressing them, which is probably what a fashion show’s about, cause it is all very frenetic and quick.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Quick. Frantic.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** But she looked absolutely stunning.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** She's really fab, isn't she?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** She's beautiful. Yeah no it was great fun. Can't wait to talk with her about it.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Shall we get her in?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah

[*theme music*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Alright, our guest is here. We are celebrating our 100th episode with an icon who has had iconic roles on TV and on the stage, hit singles and a former Miss America. Felt appropriate, for a big birthday. A round of applause for Vanessa Williams, everybody.

[*applause*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Welcome!

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Thank you, thank you.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Thank you for coming.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Hi!

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Thank you. Lovely to be here.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh my god.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And it smells delicious.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh good.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Right?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** It really does today. My niece Liv’s here, and when me and Liv walked in today, we were both like, oh my god.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** It's going to be good.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** The smell, we were like, it’s gonna be a good one. Well, thank you, and thanks for being here.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Um, I think we should begin by talking about your life right now and why-

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I’m here.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** You’re here! And why you're in the UK. You are starring in the West End.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Tell us all about your latest role.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I am starring as Miranda Priestly in The Devil Wears Prada, a new musical that Elton John did the music for. And, uh, we're at the Dominion Theatre and we are in previews now, we open, our opening night is December 1st, so previews meaning that everything changes every day.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Ooh, wow.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So after I leave, I have to go to rehearsal to probably get new lyrics and new dialogue, because it's tweaking and tweaking, because it's new. So they want to make sure that they get it right…

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** It works, yeah

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** and, uh, they, you know, they look at the audience and see how they react and what's not clear, so your mind, I mean, at sixty-one my mind is not as agile as these young twenty-

[*laughter*]

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** -twenty somethings that can like, you know, put in new lyrics and have it flawlessly. I've got sticky notes and, uh, pads all over the place like what's new? There it is.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I mean, it is like the craziest job, no offence. The one I have like the most respect for.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Like starring in the West End or on Broadway on stage. One, terrifying.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Mm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Two, don't know how you do it. And like, remember it and like stay in the motion of it every night. Is it as terrifying as I'm imagining?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Okay good.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** It's terrifying.

[*laughter*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** It is, yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, I literally got new lyrics the night before and said, okay, we're going to put them in tomorrow in front of two thousand people. And it's just two lines of stuff that I had memorised for three months before.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So your, your muscle memory already has something that's attached to what you're doing.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So it's really, really tough. Yeah, it's hard. And I'm like, why am I doing this again?

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Like, ‘Why? Oh, I love it.’

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I love it.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** ‘I love the stage.’

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I love it.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Well I went to see it last night, and I have to say it was flawless.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Ah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** You were incredible.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Well thank you.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Honestly, I mean, you would not know that it was previews. The other thing is like, we were just talking earlier about our crew, and I was saying to Nick, I said, what he- last night was incredible, there's so many costume changes and you all came out in split seconds.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** There must have be about thirty people round there, changing you all.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, we've got an amazing crew that are literally in the wings.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And as soon as we come off, it's like, you're, uh, you know, a-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** You’re standing there.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** [*laughs*] Yeah, exactly. Yeah, take the shoes. Exactly, yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Hair, everything.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And we've got all the tricks with poppers here and zips there, and magic, you know, velcro there, so…

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** So you're like choreographing it off stage as well.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** It is, yeah. Absolutely. Left foot, right foot, arms up, jump in.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Wow.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Uh, yeah. So that's exactly what it's like.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh my god, no, I just couldn't believe that, because you never felt you were waiting and then suddenly a whole new set. I was like, how- was- it- uh- hold on a minute? You know.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** The magic of theatre.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** We'd still be getting changed today.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Well, God, knowing us.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** ‘Where's that shoe?’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I also love the way you use the whole theatre.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I'm not going to say anything else, but I thought that was really clever way, given the sort of script and what the show's about.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah. Even in the beginning, and Jerry Mitchell, who is our director and choreographer, who has done such a brilliant job taking, you know, a franchise from a movie that everybody knows every word of.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm-hm.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And bringing it to stage, which is quite a feat because you want to kind of stay true to what people love. So a lot of my lines are, you know, uh, you know, ‘By all means, move at a glacial pace.’

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** People know that, I do the whole Cerulean monologue and, and at night, you know, doing the whole thing, I get applause because people know every word of the Cerulean monologue. So it's kind of trying to say true to that, but also allow the audience to see it in three dimensions, so, and I'm not going to spoil it, but, uh, so Amy Di Bartolomeo, who is our Emily, she starts the show coming from the audience and walks up on stage and basically is trying to tell them politely to turn off their phones, but, ‘Have you gotten your picture of the sign yet?’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** ‘You've got a picture of me yet?’ So she kind of introduces the, the high fashion, the attitude, the little, you know, snarkiness. So people are like, oh, it's a comedy. We can laugh.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Uh-huh.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Oh, this is what we're in for and it kind of sets the tone.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So there's a lot of kind of interaction between the audience and being close to the aisles and seeing the glamour and also seeing what's on stage.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I can't wait to go and see. I was so sad I couldn't come last night.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I mean, it was, it was one of your first lines, where you say to her, ‘Emily, if you don't sort that out, I'm sending you Estée Lauder.’

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** ‘For lab testing.’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** It was like, Miranda's here. She is here.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mirandas here.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Sorry about my terrible accent.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** We’ll have to get you in it, No, wow.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I realised how bad my laugh was.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Took my breath away.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I really laughed loud.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Oh, were you the one? [*laughs*]

[*laughter*]

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And this woman turned around, I went, oh my God, and Lara was like, ‘Ange, Ange.’

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** No, we love it, though. We love it.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** You can’t-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** [*laughs*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** That was it. You might have heard it. You might have heard it.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** But I imagine if you're on stage, that's exactly what you want to hear.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** We do.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** If it's a funny play.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yes, yeah.

[*laughter*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Not if it's a drama.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** On that note, I'm going to get you something to eat.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And you can buy tickets right now, right?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** DevilWearsPrada…

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Musical.com.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Musical.com.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm-hm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** But yeah, go get tickets because they're selling out. I said to Liv, I said, ‘Why don't we go tonight, after Vanessa's been on?’ and she said, ‘I'm going with my friend Fiona.’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Ooh!

[*laughs*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** That's Liv over there. And she’s already going.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** She's already got tickets. Not invited you.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** If you want to go with me, um, email us.

[*laughter*]

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And if you have a spare ticket.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And if you have a spare ticket, yeah, email us.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** That's what you're after.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Dish@waitrose.co.uk.

[*cooking sounds*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Okay, food is here. It smells outrageous.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yum… Delicious.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Bon appétit.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I nearly said congrats then. Congrats, Ange.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Thank you, thank you.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Um, congrats!

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Thank you.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** So what have we got here?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So we have a tomato and vodka bucatini with crispy pancetta pangritata.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Okay, right. I'm gonna have to get into this. How was this to make, Ange? Did you enjoy it?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah, I've never, I'll be honest, I'll be- welcome your feedback. I've never made this before.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm, mm-hm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** But, um, so I've never made anything with the vodka side of it, but it feels, if I may- and I think the history is right. There's two theories that this is from the Bologna area.

**VANESSA AND NICK:** Mm-hm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** But I can't believe that. But they say it's the American, it's like a New York dish.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Which this feels very New York to me, vodka, tomatoes, chilli.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Abso-absolutely.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So it's basically a tomato sauce base, using tomato puree. In a pan, a little bit of shallot in there, cook that down. I like garlic in there as well.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm-hm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm-hm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And then cook your pasta and then literally vodka in the sauce, double cream in the sauce, and a little bit of the cooking water.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And then your pasta.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I've done this with penne.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Ah, yeah, I think, is it penne that the classic dish is with, I think, in New York?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Okay, yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I think so.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, penne alla vodka.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** That’s delicious.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, and almost…

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Is it good?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** It's delicious.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Is it, have I hit the mark?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Good, phew.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** That is really good. It's spicy.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And the crisp on top.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And the crunch.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** It's got some depth as well. Is that the vodka?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Vodka, yeah, I mean, I didn't measure that, I just opened the bottle and poured. So I hope that was alright.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** What is like the chef science behind the vodka in the pasta?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I think what it does, it works with the cream and it makes it much smoother and a lovely richer sauce, I think, is what the vodka brings to it. And it does give that hint of heat, you know, you've got it with the chilli, but you also do taste a little bit of the vodka, or it may well have been my hand that was overpouring.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah it’s like the phwoar of a martini a bit. Yeah. You know, that sort of thing, yeah. And then is this a thing that you could make ahead Ange, the sauce, and then…

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Not really.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** You want-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** The thing is, the beauty of it, and as you say Vanessa, you've cooked it, you cook your pasta, you make the sauce at the same time, so it's a ten minute, twelve minute dish. It's easy.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** When do you eat? That's what I always want to know when I go to the theatre, I'm always thinking, cause me and Mesh went the other week to go see Juno and the Paycock with -

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh was that good?

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** -with J. Smith-Cameron and Mark Rylance.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm-hm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And he was like, we cannot make the error of going to the theatre hungry.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Cause then, you know, I like start blacking out and I'm like, ‘I hate the arts.’ And it's actually, you just needed some pasta.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Right.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** So we had like dinner early and then loved it.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Right.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Um, taking me forty years to figure that out. What about you? When do you have your tea? When do you eat?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** We eat, um, you're- like a light. I usually do a light something at five, five to six.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah, yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Cause I don't want to have a full stomach, and I eat after.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** After.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And then the idea of-

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And I’m usually ravenous afterwards.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I bet, after that performance and the adrenaline.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm-hm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And I love the idea of, I don't know if it is like this, but in my head it's quite a glamorous lifestyle. Like it finishes and you all have like a martini or…

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Oh. Well…

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Or hang out with Stanley Tucci somewhere.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** We did actually, we just saw Stanley, uh, last week.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** No way.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Or was it like two weeks ago? Elton had a premiere of a new documentary that's airing on Disney in December. So we were there and Stanley was waiting to do another, um, the red carpet on another event.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh wow.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And his wife said, go say hi. His father was our art teacher in a high school, Mr. Tucci.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** No way.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, so Mr. Tucci was our-

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** What? No way!

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah! So his father's ninety-four and he said, ‘My dad says hi,’ I said, ‘Oh my god, I love your dad. Please tell him I said hi.’ And, uh, yeah. So then of course he met, um, Matt Henry's playing Nigel.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So they got a photo together, and me and Georgie.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** That is so surreal.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah. And do you feel it's tough to wind down? Cause you know, I, you know, I cook, so you finish service about probably similar time you'll finish, 10:30, 11. And then I'm still like two hours, bumbumbum. But how do you sort of think, so you're not wired to 4am and then thinking, you know…

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I usually have drinks with people that are coming in to see the show. So I've had a lot of, uh, you know, US friends come in, uh, fly in on their way to Paris or whatever, just come in and see the show, which has been great.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm-hm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So a late dinner. And I've been watching, um, Married at First Sight UK, but like, zooming through-

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Obsessed.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I, I'm obsessed with it. Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Obsessed.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I watch American, but the UK is much better.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Really?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Really juicy.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** More unhinged.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** It is.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** [*laughs*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And also you've got, you've got that, one couple falls out, then you've got a new couple introduced, so I'm just getting to, oh, it’s a new couple.

[*laughter*]

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So now I'm like, yeah, I love it. I love it.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I love that that's what you do.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** That’s brilliant.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** After performing in the West End, bit of MAFS, yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah, you’re not rehearsing your lines or reread-

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Have you watched it?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** No, I haven't watched it, I’m going to now.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh my god, get into it, it is good.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** It’s good, it’s good.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Have you watched the Australian one?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** No, is that messy?

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Truly unhinged, yeah. So on top of this is a pangritata.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Mm.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Which we have talked about, I've said pangritata a lot over the past hundred episodes. What the hell is it? Crumbs?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** You know- yeah, crumbs, yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Crumbs.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Basically - the Italians, in their genius of cooking, do not waste anything. So, that's how a sort of panzanella has come about, tomato salad to soak up stale bread.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I love that, yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And this is the fact, it's oldish breadcrumbs.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mmm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Mix it with the fat, so in this case it's pancetta, but you could do it with olive oil and bacon.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm-hm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And then you season it up. So you don't really need much seasoning, but if you wanted to, you could add a little bit of lemon. We've done it before with sage, time you liked it we had walnuts and sage. It's just, I think it really works with the pasta when something is softer to have that crunchiness on top.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yes.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So, we are-

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Bit of texture.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And we only do it for people from Hollywood, to be honest.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Ahh.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** [*laughs*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah, we do actually.

[*laughter*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** There is a wine pairing with this.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** We're not having a wine today.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** We're not having wine.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** But what is the advised wine pairing, Ange?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So, we have this lovely Araldica Barbera D'Asti Superiore, which is this lovely Italian wine, always perfect, it says. ‘A juicy, friendly, medium bodied, red wine from Piedmont. Takes the ri-’

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** That's quite me, ‘Juicy, friendly, and medium body.’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** You are, yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** ‘That's him.’

[*laughter*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** ‘That's him there, yeah, *medium* body.’

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** ‘Not full, medium.’

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** No, medium.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So so.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah, so so.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So so.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Friendly!

[*laughter*]

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Friendly.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Friendly. So that is the wine pairing. If you want to try the recipe, [waitrose.com/dishrecipes](http://waitrose.com/dishrecipes), they're all on there. This one is definitely going on my list. For sure.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Also, if you can't be bothered making it, you can get a pre-made one at Waitrose.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** You can get a pre-made jar, yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So, question about your pancetta.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Is there any specific region that pancetta comes from or?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** It’s mainly the Emilia Romagna, Bologna area, is where you get it.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm-hm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And this is an unsmoked one.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And you can, as you know, in the UK, buy it from Waitrose chopped already.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Oh, nice.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So you don't have to worry about that. So straight in the pan, let that fat melt down, then add your breadcrumbs.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Nice.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And no seasoning because the saltiness of the pancetta.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, okay.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Have you been to a British supermarket yet?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, yeah, I've done, yes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I love an American supermarket.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Oh they’re gigantic.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Like love. And when I took my mum away, we went to Miami and on the last day I said, ‘What should we do?’ And she said, ‘Should we go back to that supermarket?’

[*laughter*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I was like, ‘Really?’ Have you noticed anything over here that you're like, oh, that's different? [*laughs*] what about-

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Well just like names, like we call it arugula, you call it rocket.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yes, yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So it’s just like getting, ‘Where is the arugula?’ I kept trying to order it.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah [*laughs*].

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I saw a TikTok the other day that was saying about rocket, like, are we sure we're meant to eat that? Because it doesn't taste nice.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** [*laughs*]

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Really? See I li- I think it's like peppery. I put it, that's the bed for everything. I'll do that with protein on it.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Really?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah. That's my go to green.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** So that tells me then, so when you're not working as hard as you do?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm-hm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** When you're not performing, are you at home?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Are you cooking?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Is the kitchen the place you want to be in and stuff?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah. Especially with my, I have four kids.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh wow.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And I have one grandson.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** [*laughs*]

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I mean, they're all adults now, but yeah. The hub is the kitchen.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And what's the sort of quintessentially New … coz you were born in New York state yeah? quintessentially New York dish that you would've, if anyone said, going to New York, to try?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Um, lasagne for sure.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh really?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, yeah. I mean, um, ‘cause…

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** The Italian influence.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, so I'm, I grew up in, close to New York City, like an hour outside.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So tons of Italian influence. My mum loves Chinese food so there's a lot of Chinese that's readily available. And then our sandwiches, we- subs are, that depends on where you are. Like some call them subs, some call them heroes, where I come, we call them wedges.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Wedges?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah. So when you get a wedge, like, you know, growing up, you'd get a giant… French bread and then usually you can get an Italian wedge, uh, or turkey, then they layer the turkey, is like that high.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I love an American sandwich.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I've never, like, coped with that. The amount of meat.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** A New York sandwich.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yes!

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** It's like half a pound of meat!

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Exactly.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Absolutely insane.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Exactly, yeah. Salt and pepper, um, and you know, tomato, lettuce, tomato.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm-hm.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And then also our breakfast sandwiches, you know, are, are the, you know, the egg sandwiches that, um, it's only like New York, you know, when you get an egg sandwich.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Uh-huh.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And they, they do salt, pepper, ketchup. That's yeah, with cheese.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Food in New York, we’ve spoke about before, food in New York is fantastic. And why do you think that is? What do you think it is? Do you think it's the…

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Culture.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Culture.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** We have so many-

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mixing pot, yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So many cultures.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Mm-hm.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I mean, I've grown up with every, everything's available.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Similar to London though. You can get Bangladesh, I mean, if you try hard enough, you can really kind of find anything.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** But I think New York was always ahead of us. You have your, like you said, your neighbourhood.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm-hm.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And I think in every neighbourhood you had your Italian, your Chinese, your Indian, your Korean. You'd never needed to leave. Whereas we've only just started to sort of get our little neighbourhoods in London where we've got everything we have.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Right.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I like the takeaway, you know, ordering in? Cause I never really do that in London, so I'm going, ‘Michael, order in, order in a takeaway.’

[*laughter*]

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Because it always comes, like, we get them in those silly plastic containers, which I’m a nut and I keep and wash up whatever, but I love it in the paper.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Mm-hm, yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** You know, they look really nice. I don't know why, they just look quite nice.

No I know what- I do-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Looks more chic.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I remember like watching films-

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes, exactly!

**NICK GRIMSHAW:**-and you get the Chinese in the white-

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Oh the boxes.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes! I like the white boxes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Packaging

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yes, yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:**We don't have that.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** You don't?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Noo.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** No. So we were like, the glamour!

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** That’s exactly it! I feel that too.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Take away Chinese.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** I know, I do!

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** But we thought it was really like, [*gasps*] Americans.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh I get it.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I was obsessed when I was a kid of having like the white box with like noodles in.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** My brother just says, ‘Stop watching Seinfeld, get over yourself.’

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I think we know what Christmas gifts to get this year…

**NICK GRIMSHAW:**Yeah! Cardboard!

[*laughter*]

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Woohoo!

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And what do you love cooking when you've got a house full, when all the family are round?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** My quick pasta dish, which I don't know how I, I saw it on a, you know, I, I used to pull recipes out from newspapers and, uh, but this is, uh, it's a bucatini, which is a thicker noodle than a spaghetti. And then it's turkey, uh, ground turkey, but then it is, you know, salt, pepper, butter, a little olive oil, chopped onions and garlic. And then you put paprika and green olives and a little bit of sour cream. It's a really different taste and it's, it is not your regular, you know, tomato sauce that we've, yeah, yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh, yum.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** So that's like my big pasta dish, which they, they ask specifically for.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And do they still, you know, cause you're busy, are they still like, ‘Mum, make the pasta thing?’

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah. But my kids are, I've got two that are great cooks and two that are learning, they want to learn.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Shout out to the learners. If you're listening. Christmas day, they're like, no, I'm not the learner. I know.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah. Yeah. And they, they, they love to cook. Yeah. And some are bakers and some are …

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** more savoury side.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Do you miss them when you're here?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I do. Thank god for FaceTime. I mean, that and my Ring camera, I can check on my dogs. I've got two great danes at our home that I couldn't bring here. No, they're used to the yard and they wouldn't know what to do.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Are they going to come for Christmas, the family, do you think?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yes. We have our opening night, which is December 1st. My mum turns eighty-five on December 8th.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh wow.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS** A party for her that following Sunday. So everyone's just going to stay for the week and then have a party at first. She said, well, I'll, you know, about forty-five people. We're up to a hundred and forty two people flying in for my mother's birthday.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Wow.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS** She's quite popular.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** That's a plane for you.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I love that. That's going to be so fun.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Let's finish the show and just have the theatre. We'll just do it on stage.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** The auditorium out. Oh my God. How fun.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I love that. And do you love doing big family parties and birthdays?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I do, I do, uh, I mean, we do, for my mum, we've done every five years, so this is eighty-five. But, um, yeah, my house is usually the, the centre, yeah, that everybody comes.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And was it always like that when you were younger? Was your family house like that?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Well, it's just me and my brother. So yeah, we would always, very traditional family and we'd go to church on Christmas Eve and come back and have, you know, a dinner, whether we might have Christmas breakfast or dinner, but always, always a great meal.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And what about Christmas this year? Cause before we started, you were saying you're doing the show on Christmas Eve. I never knew that.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, so Christmas Day. I don't know what I'll be doing Christmas Eve. I'll do the show and yeah, we'll see. We'll see what kid shows up, one of the four, fingers crossed for a cooker not a learner..

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Vanessa Williams it is time for your fast food quiz.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Okay.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** What is your favourite way to eat eggs?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** A good scramble.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** What's your favourite herb?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I say basil. Basil, as you say.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Form of potato?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** French fries. Yeah. Although a good creamy mash with truffle

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yes please

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** salt. So we'll do creamy mash with truffle salt, black pepper, lots of cream, lots of butter.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** What's your favourite sandwich filling?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I'd say turkey.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Favourite pasta?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Uh, I would probably do penne. It's just like my old favourite.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Favourite cocktail?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** It depends on the season, very seasonal. So, um, I love a good old fashioned in the winter time because it's kind of like toasty and, uh, you know, spicy, uh. Summer time, like on safari, a G&T while you're watching. A sundowner. I love a safari

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** option.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Exactly.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Sundowner

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** you're watching the, the, the animals graze.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah. I love a safari option. Yeah.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** And finally, your fruit. What's your favourite fruit?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I would say a delicious in season peach, juicy and then of course, with heavy cream.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** In season, very good

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** In a salad, I like it. Yes, peaches,

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** peach, peach.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** We’re coming over to yours for supper.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** You win, you win.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Shall we talk about Ugly Betty?

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Sure

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Because I feel like we have to talk about Ugly Betty. Mesh, my other half, he will watch Ugly Betty as like his comfort thing. Like sometimes he'll watch it for like, you know, on a Saturday if he's off, he'll just watch Ugly Betty over and over. He is obsessed. As am I.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Phenomenal show. In 2010, Entertainment Weekly named Wilhelmina as one of the hundred greatest characters of the past 20 years. And so true, like such a phenomenal character. How was that role? And is it quite fun just being quite horrible at work all day? It's killer line after killer line. You must look at that script and be like …

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** our writing staff was incredible. And our read throughs were hilarious. Because I never knew what was gonna happen next. What was she gonna do this episode? Take the cold sperm from her dead husband? You know, it's just like, what? You know, playing softball with Naomi Campbell. Yeah. Like all these like, being on the roof and just, you know, smashing mannequins. I had no idea what was next, so.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** But it must be quite fun to play a character like that as well because it was so ludicrous, like some of the things you had to do. But it was also like quite tongue in cheek as well. Like kind of knowing, it was like, you got to be silly,

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** But you didn't actually dislike the character.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** And she never got to be editor. Yeah, exactly. So she was always scrambling, trying to get to be the head of…

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah, to be the boss. Uh huh.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** The moments are amazing. Tried to commit a sister to an insane asylum, tried to give vodka to an alcoholic, casually destroyed a business, seduced a man just to get a better job title, manipulated an amnesiac into thinking they were friends.

It's like absolute insanity. How was it when you'd get those scripts? Would you be like, Oh my God, they've lost it. They have lost it.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** You know, our talent was so deep as an ensemble. We just couldn't wait to play, you know, slamming a door on Betty White's hand and dragging her. Wilhelmina, you know, Wilhelmina Slater doesn't get wet, you know.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** What a fun character to play. And speaking of Ugly Betty, we thought we could maybe see if you were up for doing some of Wilhelmina's most famous lines. Okay.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** The first one is because Wilhelmina had so much Botox, she couldn't move any bit of her face. So she said, even if I wanted to express sympathy, I physically can't.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** So good. The lines are so good.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** The next one is when Mark, uh, my assistant is dressing up with a Guadalajara poncho as Betty and everyone's laughing. And, uh, I catch him and I said, ‘Mark, that is the most cruel thing I've ever seen. Somebody's getting a raise’.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** I wanted to ask you, Vanessa, we were very obsessed that you were crowned Miss America, never knew this.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah, yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** How did that come about? Was it like, what do you do? You go to like, Pageants. And then you work up to like city by city, state by state.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I was at University second year, my sophomore year majoring in musical theatre, which I'm doing as a career. Your freshman year is your core year, so you can't do any performing. You have to learn how to stage craft and voice and piano and dance, all that stuff. So my sophomore year I was allowed to perform and I basically did everything.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Hmm, mmm

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** I did all kinds of, um, musicals and every time I'd perform one of my buddies, they had a friend who was on the board of the Miss Greater Syracuse pageant and they would say ‘oh we'd love to have her be in the pageant’ because they used to scout their talent from the the voice department and all that stuff.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes, sure.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** ... and I was not a pageant girl like no no no I had auditioned for Production of Cyrano de Bergerac, which was our local rep theatre, Syracuse stage, got the job. And I was supposed to do that that spring and I'd gotten scholarships the previous two years. The show got cancelled and I had April free. And I called my mom. I said, do you think I should do this Miss Greater Syracuse? And she's like, is there scholarship money? It's like, yeah and she said do it.

So, um, entered it in April and I sang a song that I did in performance class. I bought a swimsuit downtown at our local department store and got a gown and won that in April. My parents didn't even come cause it, you know, it was like not a big deal, ended up going to Miss New York state in July, won that. And then I was headed to Atlantic City in September.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Oh my god.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh my god.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** All my, all my friends in school were like, do they know who they have? Because I was like a normal university kid who, you know, had a boyfriend, smoked pot. I mean, you know, and ended up winning the whole thing at 20 years old. So yeah, it was, um, completely unexpected.

I knew talent wise and intellect wise, I had what it took, but there had never been a black Miss America that time. We're talking 1983, but again, being from New York, very multicultural, whatever. So I thought, why not? But then when it actually happened, I had no idea the extent of change that it would actually happen, due to me, you know, being me.

So it was the quickest lesson to realise that yes, there's a vision in the United States. Yes, there is bigotry and prejudice. And I was kind of in a bubble. A successful bubble and when I won at 20 years old and being black I realised that oh I'm getting hate mail because of who I am and what I look like. I was getting death threats because of being the first black Miss America. My parents had an FBI file, which I don't know what your equivalent is, but federal bureau of investigations - of the death threats that I was getting while I was being Miss America throughout the United States.

So I had no idea the danger that I was actually encountering that I was being protected from and also having to prove myself on a daily basis, over and over again as a 20 year old.

So it was the hardest period of my life for sure. The biggest kind of achievement, but also the biggest slap in the face because it was, um, a lot of, you know, racism rears, it's ugly head. And, and I, you know, I was born in 1963 and my parents had me in the middle of John F. Kennedy being shot, Martin Luther King about to be shot. I mean, all this racial unrest, but all this lovely movement for empowerment. And I thought those days were over. We had done it and solved it and be in the eighties. And then it all kind of ..

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** reared its ugly head.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah. It was astounding. Mm-Hmm. . But it made me grow up really, really quick. Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Wow. I bet. Yeah. 20 years old. Yeah. There's a lot of pressure into that. It's a lot of pressure and a lot of hate that you were experiencing.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Yeah. And I look back at my kids at 20, oh my God, I was so young. Yeah. So I thought I was, you know, brave enough to, to handle anything, and I realised what a baby I was. Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** And then what's been your sort of legacy from that experience moving forward, do people reach out to you and say you were you know. Conversely people like oh my god, you're a role model.

Yeah, you're the first woman that I saw in this position.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** During that time I would get elderly black women in tears saying I never thought I'd see the day. I remember being at the inauguration of Obama and that same kind of wave of like, I never thought this day would happen and how proud you are collectively as a community. That was kind of a parallel thing when you're the first similar thing with Kamala, you know, with which we just obviously saw what happened with that. But that kind of collective energy of like, can this be the first, can this be a game changer? It's like a family moment. So it's, it's heartbreaking, but it's also very uplifting.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** So Vanessa, we come to the end of the show question. We have a big question in this envelope. This one is quite easy. I think, I think it's probably the easiest question we've ever had, but here we go.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Vanessa, for being the star of our 100th show.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Yeah.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** Please come back anytime for a chance to win a Waitrose goodie bag. We have one question, which is better? A British chip or an American fry?

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Now be careful. We'll support whichever way you go. We're humans.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah, I know my answer.

**VANESSA WILLIAMS:** When in Rome, British chip.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Oh! Come on! You couldn't have said french fry and lived here for a year.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yeah.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** People would have had banners in the West End like, She hates our chips! She hates our chips.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Um, Vanessa, so much for joining us. so much for coming. The goodie bag is yours. so much. A round of applause for our wonderful guest, Vanessa Williams, everybody.

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Thank you, you’ve been amazing

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** Next week on Dish, we are going to be getting dead Christmassy with Matthew MacFadyen.

**MATTHEW MACFADYEN:** Didn't Nigella do like a Marmite spaghetti, which I've never tried?

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Yes, I saw that recently.

**MATTHEW MACFADYEN:** I've never tried it, but oh wow, makes sense in my head.

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** That sounds like something I'd make when I get in.

**MATTHEW MACFADYEN:** Yeah, yeah

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** If you would like to recreate any of the meals I make on Dish, you can find the ingredients and the method on [waitrose.com/dishrecipes](http://waitrose.com/dishrecipes).

**NICK GRIMSHAW:** We love hearing from you, so please come on, send us a question, I read them, Angela answers them. If you want to do it, [dish@ waitrose.co.uk](http://waitrose.co.uk)

**ANGELA HARTNETT:** Dish is an S:E Creative Studio Production

**VOICEOVER:** Waitrose, food to feel good about.