

Sir Lenny Henry loves our seared scallop & tomato tagliatelle



NICK GRIMSHAW: Dish from Waitrose is a Cold Glass production. This podcast may contain some strong language and adult themes.

[theme music plays]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Hello, welcome to Dish from Waitrose. I'm Nick Grimshaw.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And I'm Angela Hartnett.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Hi, Angela Hartnett.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Hello, Nicholas. How are you?

NICK GRIMSHAW: I'm good, I'm good, I'm good. So, Lenny Henry joins us on Dish today.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I know.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Have you ever crossed paths with Lenny Henry?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Years and years ago.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I think he did something for Gordon. I don't know what, or maybe it's something for Comic Relief.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Well, Sir Lenny is with us today-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

NICK GRIMSHAW: -to talk about a brand-new stage show-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -That he's doing. He's going to be touring across the country to celebrate 5 decades-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

NICK GRIMSHAW: -in the industry, and because he won, uh, the— a talent show called New Faces-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -at the age of 16 in 1975.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That's incredible.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So, Lenny's going to be here to talk about that. We also want to talk to him about playing Othello.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We want to talk to him about Comic Relief.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Of course, and also 50 years in the industry.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That's quite incredible.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's, it really is. So, before we get Sir Lenny in, should we talk about the star ingredient of what we're gonna cook for Lenny?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, we're gonna have scallops.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, we've never had scallops.

NICK GRIMSHAW: They don't look great uncooked, do they? *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: They don't look great uncooked.

[crew laughs]

ANGELA HARTNETT: They don't look great by themselves.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No, no.

ANGELA HARTNETT: But, you know, we're gonna have those with a fantastic pasta dish.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Um, there's a little bit of tomato, a little bit of fresh tagliatelle. So yeah, I think they're gonna be delicious. And scallops are in season. They're pretty much all year round, to be fair.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You can have them roasted or you can have them raw-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -like a carpaccio.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: People love them. They're slightly sweet, scallops.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So, you like a little bit of citrus to counterbalance that. And I think something that goes really well with it is a really light curry seasoning. Cauliflower goes well with them-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -as well. Capers

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: All that sort of thing. Mm-hmm. Some people cook them in the shell, and they do like caper butter. With some garlic and pancetta. Peas go really well with scallops. They're very versatile.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And just get them off the fish counter

ANGELA HARTNETT: You can get

NICK GRIMSHAW: -in Waitrose.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -them off the fish counter. You know, they come in a shell.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So, when they're super fresh, you, you know, slice the shell open and then you take them out. And you can use all the scallops. So, you have the roe there-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -which is basically the orange muscle that's attached to the scallop. A lot of people might throw that away, but you can eat that. It's really delicious.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How long do you reckon you cook in like that big chunky scallop for?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Very small time, couple of minutes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh right.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You don't want them— because the thing about scallops, they go rubbery-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -If you overcook them-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -you don't want them. So, it's very, very hot pan, boom, boom, quick flash.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That's it. Done.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Well, thank you, Ange. Well, let's get our guest in. Let's welcome Sir Lenny Henry.

[theme music plays]

[cheering and applause]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes, Lenny!

ANGELA HARTNETT: Lenny!

NICK GRIMSHAW: Come round here.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Hi.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How are you?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Love to see you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How are you?

SIR LENNY HENRY: Nice to see you. I'm a fanboy.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, bless you. We're fans. We're fans.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Big fanboy.

SIR LENNY HENRY: How are things?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, good.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Good.

NICK GRIMSHAW: All right. Yeah, we're ready.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I love what you've done with the place.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You like it?

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: Welcome.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It's gorgeous.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do you love it?

ANGELA HARTNETT: It's great, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Come on in.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Come in. Come sit down.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We'll get you a drink and get you something to eat.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

[theme music plays]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Now, Angela, we often joke, and it is a joke—

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: —about how long we've been doing Dish.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Sometimes you're like, oh, I can't believe we've been doing it 4 years. When's it going to be over? Again, that's a joke.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes, it's a joke.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's always a joke. And so, we've been going on now over 4 years.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Over 4 years.

NICK GRIMSHAW: But joining us today, a man who's been at the top of his game for over 50 years, an actor, writer, comedian, broadcaster, and certified inspiration.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Sir Lenny Henry, everyone!

[cheering and applause]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Come on! Yes! Welcome, Sir Lenny!

SIR LENNY HENRY: Thank you very much.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Welcome Sir Lenny.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I love that you brought your audience with you.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes!

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: 15 people off the street, get in here.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Get in here now.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: You don't have to pay anything, just get in.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No.

SIR LENNY HENRY: There's food.

ANGELA HARTNETT: There's food. We feed them, we feed them.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Get in there. Welcome to Dish.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It's very nice to be here.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

NICK GRIMSHAW: Aw thanks for coming.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Thanks for coming.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Oh, who's those guys?

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: Really nice to be here.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Thank you for coming on and congratulations on your new theatre show.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: My new theatre show.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Which is *Still at Large*

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Which as we said is celebrating your career.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: 50 years

SIR LENNY HENRY: in showbiz.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah, it's celebrating my career, but it's also celebrating—when I, when I grew up in Dudley in the West Midlands, we were over there was Enoch Powell, The Rivers of Blood

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And over there was Peter Griffiths, who sort of stormed an election with the phrase, "If you want an N-word for a neighbour, vote Labour." Sorry to bring you down, but I lived in the middle of that. So, I grew up being bullied-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and having racist abuse hurled at me going to school.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And this show, doing this now in the 21st century, it's funny, but it's also extraordinary that we're still going through sexism, racism

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Homophobia.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: All of those things. And it makes an observation, not in a big, finger-waggy way-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -that these things are going on and we have to be alert.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, it's, it's all right being funny, but, uh, you've got to be funny in the right way.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And be talking about things that matter.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, I'm trying to do that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: As well as talking about going to garden centres and my girlfriend being better at cleaning than I am.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, I'm talking about all kinds of things.

NICK GRIMSHAW: All the basics are covered.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I never thought I'd be talking about on stage.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Because I didn't think I was going to be doing stand-up anymore.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I thought I was done.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: After Comic Relief.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Being Knighted by the Queen.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: The face of Premier Inn.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: That's it. I thought I was done.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You've done everything. You've done it all.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And, uh, so it's an extraordinary thing-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: -to be back on stage looking at the audiences going, we thought you were done.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It's so great.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So, what you did, you—I mean, weirdly, you didn't just wake up one way. What's made you suddenly go back on stage? Why have you done it?

SIR LENNY HENRY: I've done two shows.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I did a show called *August in England*, which is about the Windrush scandal.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was funny, but it was also moving about the

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: the tragedy of it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Sure

SIR LENNY HENRY: And what happened was-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -quite a lot of Jamaicans came to see that show-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: -it was in Shepherd's Bush. And they joined in with the show.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Brilliant.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, every time I do like a bit and they go, "Yes, that happened to me as well."

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: "Tell them, Lenny." And many, many nights, "Preach, Lenny, because that is true." So, I thought, well, that's funny.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: The audience were interacting with me.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then I did *Every Brilliant Thing*

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Which Daniel Radcliffe was just nominated for a Tony for-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -at the Soho Place Theatre. And again, you know, people came to see that, and they wanted me to talk to me as Lenny

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -Not as the character. I had to keep saying, 'No, it's not me. I'm not me, I'm a character.'. Character in a play -

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -It's not Lenny from Tiswas.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, yeah *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -in the play. But they loved— they really enjoyed the show, and they loved that I had this interaction with the audience.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And I just thought, maybe I should do stand-up again.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I always say, I always think it's the most, like, terrifying job choice.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: To go and be a stand-up and stand on stage-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -and be like, here we go.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -Well, what were you like as a kid because I was very— I was kind of shy.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Were you?

SIR LENNY HENRY: -But I was bullied.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And the thing is, the comedy, um, the comedy got me out of the being bullied thing.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Right.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -Because suddenly all these kids started going, leave Lenny alone, he's funny.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -I had that. Yeah. Leave him alone, he's all right. And I had this cohort of white kids who surrounded me

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -when I was at school defending me. Back off.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -Do Tommy Cooper Len, then they'll back off then. 'Thank you very much'. I've literally got, 'thank you very much'. And they just part like the Red Sea and I'd walk through. So, the impressions and these new friends

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -Who loved me because I was funny-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: --they suddenly became my gang.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And it was so great. Such a relief.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do you remember the first time you were on stage? Do you remember how you felt the first time you were up there?

SIR LENNY HENRY: -Well, I didn't know what— well, I didn't know what it was going to be like, but, um, I'd been making my mate— it was like this-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -so you would have 3 mates, and if you're the funny one— they were all funny, by the way-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -I wasn't the only funny one— we would joke things we'd seen on telly; you know, somebody would recite Monty Python-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -somebody would do a Dave Allen joke, I'd do my Frank Spencer or Tommy Cooper, you know, 'Hello, matey,' I'd do that. And then what happened was, we were in a Queen Mary ballroom and the DJ said, 'Hey, anybody want to get up and do something and win a prize?' It was— we're all under 15, that's what— we're all drinking underage in the Queen Mary-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -ballroom. You know, when you walked in, everybody was doing their homework at the bar with half a lager.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -So, so we'd all be there and, um, 'Anybody want to get up?' And my mate said, 'You should get up and do something.'

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'Well, you're going to win a bottle of whiskey and they'll give you £25.' And I went, All right.

ANGELA HARTNETT: All right. Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And they encouraged me. They didn't go, "You'd be rubbish." They literally encouraged-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -me to get up. So, I got up and I did Elvis.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And um, 500 kids were watching me going-

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -"There's a black kid doing Elvis on stage. How is this possible?" One threw a party in the county jail.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And they went nuts.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -Like they'd never heard. They were like, "Huh? How are you doing that?" You know, I did Jamaican Elvis, and it was amazing.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And I knew it had worked because the Saturday after, when I was walking down the street, do you ever shop with your mum?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -Saturday shopping with your mum, carrying all the bags.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -God, why does she buy so much stuff? And this kid over there went, "Lenny, you were great at the Queen Mary on Sunday." And my mum went

NICK GRIMSHAW: What?

ANGELA HARTNETT: What? *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And then somebody else did it, and then she said, "What did you do at the Mary?" I said, "It's nothing, Mum, it's nothing."

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -"Please buy some more beef." I was just, "Let me get home and put these bags down." But it was, my mates started to notice that I was getting-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: -respect on the street.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And then I went back the week after and I did every impression I could think of with a hat.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -I got my dad's hat and I just did— you won't know them— James Stewart, John Wayne.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -I did all these impressions with hats and I got a standing ovation and I just thought, this is something.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -And so, I started to have confidence. And DJ— God bless DJs and MCs because DJs gave me a chance that nobody else would have given

me. DJ said, 'Let Lenny Henry get up here and do 10 minutes.' And I think, can you imagine that? The Glastonbury tent.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -The grime tent at Glastonbury *[in a Jamaican accent]* 'We have a guy here going to do Frank Spencer now.'

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -It just wouldn't work, would it?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -come on, man. *[in a Jamaican accent]* 'Do Alan Partridge.' It just wouldn't happen, would it?

[theme music plays]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ange is just going to prepare your food.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -We got some pasta coming.

NICK GRIMSHAW: How far off are we, Ange?

ANGELA HARTNETT: We're about 3 minutes away.

NICK GRIMSHAW: 3 minutes. Okay, we got time. We got time-

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah, that's nice.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -to do some things in 3 minutes. We always like to go through your food likes and dislikes at the start of our episodes on Dish. We are starting with a Coke Zero because we were told, not a day drinker. However, the team were very keen to let me know it's basically 5 o'clock now.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Oh, so the sun's over the yard now.

NICK GRIMSHAW: In fact, it is 20, it's 20 past 5.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Well, I could have a glass of wine or something.

NICK GRIMSHAW: He could have a glass of wine or something.

[crew laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: Surely in 2 hours later-

NICK GRIMSHAW: A glass of wine or something.

SIR LENNY HENRY: *[singing]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love Sam being like "Wohey!"

SIR LENNY HENRY: *[singing]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Have some wine or something-

SIR LENNY HENRY: Always the best intentions.

NICK GRIMSHAW: This is what I wanted to talk about with your food likes and dislikes. I love this so much. A confession that you made in the 1980s, where you told us that you were, in the '80s, a quote, "KFC lunatic."

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: Every night after a gig. Get to Shepherd's Bush Roundabout. "Shall we...?" "Yes, alright." Then we'd go in, and it was always ribs and chicken breasts. So, there'd be 3 ribs, 3 chicken breasts-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and then we'd just— We wouldn't even go home. We'd just sit outside KFC like reprobates eating this thing. It was so delicious.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ugh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I loved it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I remember when it opened on a retail— because I grew up in Oldham and when KFC opened on the retail park near my house, I must have been like 11 or something. I made my dad take me to the opening night. I was like really excited to get a KFC.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Did you wear a tux?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, I wore a tuxedo.

[crew laughs]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Top hat. I walked that red carpet. And I remember going, and I remember my dad going, "Disgusting."

[everyone laughs]

NICK GRIMSHAW: And I was like, "I loved it, it was delicious." Um, did you ever have a KFC phase, Ange?

ANGELA HARTNETT: You know when you've drunk too much? We've all been there.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah, we've all been there.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And I was going back to work that night and I had to go back to service.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: But I still felt so rough. So, I bought a KFC, I got a black cab back-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -and I thought, "I'll eat in the black cab." And as I'm eating, he goes, "All right, Ange?" I thought, "Oh God." He goes, "Gordon's not gonna like that, is he, Angela?"

[everyone laughs]

ANGELA HARTNETT: And I went, "I'm so hungover, please, if he gets in your cab. Don't ever tell him this story."

NICK GRIMSHAW: But yeah, we loved your list, your absolute loves. One dish in particular, you said butter chicken.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Oh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Specifically, from the Standard Indian Restaurant on Westbourne Grove.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I used to live around the corner from there.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And we used to, I lived in Hammersmith and on a Friday night I would always order the curry.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I don't know if you do this, but I always order too much. So even if there was just 3 of us

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I'd order enough for the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: I literally ordered Indian food the way my mum used to cook meals for everybody.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: [In a Jamaican accent] 'Everybody in the street, you better come and eat this. We're only throwing it away tomorrow.'

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, um, I'd always order too much, and it was always delight. And the butter chicken was like-

NICK GRIMSHAW: oh

SIR LENNY HENRY: -it just melted in your mouth.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was so delicious.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was wonderful.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love a good curry.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Me too.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh, you were today keen on having something with scallops today.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Mm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Big scallop fan?

SIR LENNY HENRY: I am, yeah. It's the one, it's the one seafood I can eat. I, I don't like anything with antenna.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love that being a point.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, I don't think with antenna, I don't like lobster or prawns-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -or anything like that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You're also not a fan of slimy food.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Ew!

[crew laughs]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wha- What.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Brains!

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, you don't like that?

SIR LENNY HENRY: Eyeballs!

NICK GRIMSHAW: No.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Awful!

NICK GRIMSHAW: No. A final thing that stood out from your list is that you aren't a cake master, but you would like some tips today.

SIR LENNY HENRY: 'Cause me and my brother had a hot cross bun off-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -during the lockdown.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And we made hot cross buns-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Love a hot cross bun

SIR LENNY HENRY: -every Saturday for quite a long time.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And mine were always like cricket balls. *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: My brother would go, "Len, I'm gonna send you a picture." And then he would send me the picture of his-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -hot cross buns, and they were always soft-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ugh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and perfect and succulent, and I was so jealous. And my mother-in-law did them with me one day-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and, um, because she was a proper chef-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -she could cook-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and she was watching me do it, and at the end she said, 'You're really no good at this, are you?'

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]* I can't believe she said that.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Thanks, Doris.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Thanks, Doris.

SIR LENNY HENRY: But I'd love to learn what it is. Is it the yeast? Is it, is it the, the ratio between yeast and flour? What is it?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: What, what flour am I using? Am I using the wrong—

ANGELA HARTNETT: It's more scientific when you make pastry

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Especially bread. So, it's making sure you've weighed everything properly and then allowing, I think, it to rise. And also, it sounds silly, but your yeast can be stale.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: If it's an old packet of dried yeast-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -that maybe has been in the cupboard for a bit or something, we've all got it.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Well, the thing is, you see, my mother used to do cooking and baking and everything.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I remember interviewing her just before she passed away. I said, "Mum, how do you do the Saturday soup?" She said, *[in a Jamaican accent]* "Well, I get some herbs and I dash it in." I said, "You what?", "I just dash it in."

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then I get some flour and I dash it in.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then I get some carrot and I dash it in.

[crew laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: And so, I think that's how I was cooking the hot cross buns.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Dash it in.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I was just doing this, and I was just dashing it in-

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

[crew laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: -thinking that was gonna work. And it doesn't. Angela's over there going, it's like science. I'm like, uh-oh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-oh.

[crew laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: That's probably why.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, that's probably why.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No, but no, she did it like my grandmother. They all call it, your mum said a dash, mine did “A occhio”.

NICK GRIMSHAW: What does that mean?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Whenever she- by the eye.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Really.

ANGELA HARTNETT: She'd adjust it by the eye. And whenever she taught me anything, I'd go, hold on a minute. And I'd literally take everything, weigh it. And then she, but she still for all her life never weighed a thing whenever she made. And your mum's the same. So, it worked.

SIR LENNY HENRY: But she cooked from memory. And I used to love watching my mum 'cause she did exactly what you are doing, which is everything was by feel-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -by she'd do it in her hand. She would just pinch-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -she'd do all of those things. And it was always delicious.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Always so good.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Always.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Did you pick anything up from your mum's cooking that you've carried on that you do do?

SIR LENNY HENRY: Well, I don't know if this is right, Angela, but when my mum was making the Christmas cake, she would wait until the oven was on fire and then-

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -get it out.

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then she would cut the crust of the burnt away, and inside was the most perfect cake you've ever eaten.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: She definitely did something right.

SIR LENNY HENRY: There was this much of burn on it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I don't quite know what she was thinking.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Love that.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I think rum might have been involved.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, it might have been involved.

[crew laughs]

NICK GRIMSHAW: It might have been involved, yeah. I wanna talk to you about the good cooking credentials because you did go to cookery school.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I did a week at Le Manoir. I don't know if that counts

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: But Blanc said you should— Raymond Blanc said you should come and check this out, come and have a go. And for my birthday, I was bought a week of cooking every day with Clive at Raymond Blanc's

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Cookery school. And it was amazing. There were all these old ladies and me.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: I was the only Black person there, and I was the youngest person there by a country mile.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And the funniest thing was every time Clive said, hey, and the thing about this is you can make this 2 days before, and they'd all go, ooh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ooh.

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: You can make this the night before. Ooh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ooh. *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: And it was great. And we did fish, and we did meat, and we did veg.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: We did all, we went out into the country garden. Country garden's a whole thing.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, nice.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, I'm growing things now. I'm growing-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I've started to sow some lettuce, just started doing lettuce. Lisa does it all. Lisa's my partner. We're doing lettuce, we're doing carrots, we're doing radishes, we're doing all kinds of stuff. I'm loving the thing of going out and just picking carrots

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And onions and spring onions and going back in and using it. It's a really good thing we should all do.

[theme music plays]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Ange, talk us through how you prepared the scallop and tomato tagliatelle.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So, it's a seared scallop and tomato tagliatelle.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Seared.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Seared, like very quickly cooked in a pan.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Tsk tsk.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, exactly. Yeah. By Silvana Franco. So, you basically grate these large tomatoes

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: These big vine tomatoes. So, you have removed the skin, just grate it so you get all the pulp and the juice in a pan with some sautéed garlic, touch of lemon rind, and olive oil. And just add your tomatoes and let that cook out for about 3 or 4 minutes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That's the sauce. Then in a separate pan, sauté your scallops, um, and just literally in a really hot pan with some olive oil, lightly seasoned, sautéed. And your pasta is cooking at the same time.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. And as soon as your pasta's ready and scallops are, add your pasta to your tomato sauce, add your scallops, toss it all together, finish with some basil and serve.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Simple.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Simple.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Can you use tinned tomato sauce?

ANGELA HARTNETT: You could use tinned.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Or is it better to use fresh?

ANGELA HARTNETT: It's nice to do fresh, providing they're ripe, but you could use tinned tomatoes. You know, you can buy those tins-

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -that is just pulp.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You could easily do that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You could do that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, if you didn't want it. And also with the basil, add your basil stalks into the sauce as it's cooking.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, right.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And then a touch of lemon juice-

SIR LENNY HENRY: Stalks.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -just to finish it. The stalks, and then remove them from it, 'cause that enhances the flavour.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Mm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I've overcooked your pasta a little bit-

NICK GRIMSHAW: No, not at all.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -Sorry.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No, it's perfect.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That's alright. He's gluten-free, you see, so.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I love this show.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

NICK GRIMSHAW: It is perfect.

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: This is the best one of these I've done.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And then why do these work so well, Ange? Like, where all these flavours, like the tomato and scallops.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I think the tomatoes, you've got the acidity, which cuts through the sort of sweetness of the basil and the scallops. 'Cause scallops are naturally sweet.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And I think it works 'cause it's a really quick dish. You know, scallops don't need long to cook.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: And this sauce is a really, you don't want a sauce it's taking 25 minutes, you know, you want something that can be done really quickly

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Really easily done. And I think scallops don't need too many flavours balancing against them.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You just need a few little things. There's the acid from the lemon and the tomato.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Angela, can I ask you a question?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: When I watch the cookery programmes

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: On television

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Particularly in a Jamaican household-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: -we're always watching *going [in a Jamaican accent]* "Why they never season the food?"

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: Because the judges always go

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: "Well, if only you'd done some seasoning."

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And every Jamaican person in the country is going *[in a Jamaican accent]* 'Please season the food, you idiot!'

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: 'You have to season the food!'

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: 'Look, add salt and pepper, something!'

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: 'Bring up the croissant!' We say that. But I watch them, and they never do it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: They don't, I don't know why.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Do you think it's a panic or something?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Panic and they forget. But then some people cook with no seasoning.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Who?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I don't know, people do. Some people, you know, you lot.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: All of you have at some stage looked at me when I've seasoned something and gone, 'I can't believe you put that much salt.' All of you. I know you have-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, yeah, we have.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -yeah, well, yeah. And they're all used to it now.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Are you one of these merchants?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I don't, but I don't do all that business.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Do you dash it in?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I do season. I do season.

NICK GRIMSHAW: She dashes it in.

SIR LENNY HENRY: You dash in the salt.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: Take a big handful of salt and dash it in.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, now, and also you can, you use the scallop roe as well.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So, you've got the lovely coral bit there of the scallop.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: You can eat that as well.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Is that roe?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, that's the roe.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It's delicious.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I think that bit's-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -more delicious than the main bit.

ANGELA HARTNETT: There you go.

SIR LENNY HENRY: The orange bit.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: The orange bit. But in Venice, they use it with bigoli, which is that really thick pasta.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Oh, okay.

ANGELA HARTNETT: They do that like that. But I think it's nice with the tagliatelle.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And there's also a white wine pairing with it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So, we've got an Italian Fiano, Fiano del Salento, which has citrus and mineral notes-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, that is delicious.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -It sings with seafood. Does that sing with seafood?

NICK GRIMSHAW: I can hear it.

[crew laughs]

ANGELA HARTNETT: Is it singing away?

NICK GRIMSHAW: If it were to sing

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: how do you think-

ANGELA HARTNETT: How will it go?

NICK GRIMSHAW: -the song would go?

SIR LENNY HENRY: Amazing to be loved.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: It's singing to me.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Well, hey, to your career, 50 years.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Thank you very much.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Cheers, Lenny. Cheers, cheers, cheers.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It's an age.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Thank you very much, Lenny.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Fantastic.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I never thought it, I never thought it would last this long-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -but it's great.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It wasn't a blag. It didn't feel like a blag. I certainly feel like I've worked very hard for quite a long time. And the thing of getting good, I don't know how you felt, either of you felt, where you kind of thought, oh, I can do this.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: How long did that take? It took me about 8 years to kind of get to a point where I thought, actually, I can do this-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -you know, where I'm not going to let the audience down.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah, sure.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Did you have that?

ANGELA HARTNETT: I still sometimes have that. Sometimes you want it, you know, probably how you're feeling now doing the tour again. It's you, always think, God, you know, you wanna make sure everything's right-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -service is right. You must feel it in the morning. So, I've gotta have a good show.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I think whenever you're doing it to an audience or to people paying money, you feel there's a responsibility. I think that's what I feel.

NICK GRIMSHAW: A responsibility.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah. I learned a lot from, I worked with John Burton-Race.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh wow, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: When I was doing, I did a television show called *Chef*.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I saw it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Before I started, we did, I had this thing where we had to help with prep in the morning. And I'd get there at 6 o'clock.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: He said, you'd be here at 6. And he made me chop parsley endlessly.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I was just chopping parsley. And he was teaching me how to use a knife. And then that stopped. And then it was, I had to gut a rabbit. I had to do rabbit.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

SIR LENNY HENRY: For the whole thing was me just gutting it. Just horrible.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then there was something else. And then I went in the patisserie. So it was, and it was all about prep.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was all about, you need to, if you're gonna do it, you need to get everything ready before.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I'd never done that before.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I was the guy who started cooking and then was in Waitrose with a flour handprint on my face

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: because I'd left the meal halfway through cooking it to get a vital missing ingredient. So, it really taught me about

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Prep and about thinking before

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And the night before.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then the other thing was working with musicians.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I had a band called *Poor White Trash and The Little Bighorns*.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

SIR LENNY HENRY: With Adrian Edmondson on guitar and Hugh Laurie on the keyboards and Ben Elton's missus on the bass. And I, we had to play, we were practising *I Want You Back*. Boom.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: [*hums a tune*]

ANGELA HARTNETT: [*hums a tune*]

SIR LENNY HENRY: Right? They practised that.

[*crew laughs*]

SIR LENNY HENRY: They practised that for an hour-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and they just— and they were just practising it-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -because they were enjoying it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, the bass line is quite difficult

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, they were playing that-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and they were just— and they kept practising it over and over. And I don't think I sang-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: -in that rehearsal session, 'Cause they just kept playing, playing and playing.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And as a comedian, I went, oh, these guys are really practising

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Until they get it right.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Preparation, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And comics are kind of like, "Yeah, I go on and I just do it." And I thought. No, I'm gonna start.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Practising.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I'm gonna start running lines.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I'm gonna start thinking about the lines and I'm gonna prepare it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, like the cooking, like the working with the band, I thought no, I'm gonna go someplace and just practise my lines over and over again.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, when I come on stage, boom.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Boom.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: I can just do it without even thinking. So, to be able to play a bass line without even thinking it, it's like hours and hours of practice.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I started to apply that to my standup.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And it was a game changer.

[theme music plays]

ANGELA HARTNETT: When you got into serious acting, how did that, you know, 'cause obviously you went from comedy into that.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Mm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: What made you do it and why?

SIR LENNY HENRY: I just, and I dunno if this has ever happened to you, but I hit a wall.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

SIR LENNY HENRY: My mum passed away and then recovering from that took a long time.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I got to the 2000s and I was doing shows and everything, but I wasn't quite enjoying it like I used to.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I felt like I was just doing it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I was doing TV shows and stuff. I did Mrs. Johnson, I did two—I won a Golden Rose of Montreal for doing *Lenny Henry in Pieces*. I did a few years of that. And then I just sort of stopped doing it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I probably would've carried on if they'd asked me, but BBC didn't want any more shows. And I thought, pfft. And so, I was doing corporate gigs. 'Hey, it's the Plumber's Weekly Convention Show.'

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: 'I'm your host, Lenny Henry. Here we are.' So, I did that for a bit.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I wasn't enjoying it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then I just got to a point where I thought, there's gotta be, you know that thing where your ladder is up against the building, metaphorical ladder?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And you get to the top of that building and then you look across and you realise, oh, you wanna be on that building-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -over there. And I realised I'd done all this work as a comedian and a comedy actor.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I thought, but I wanna see if people will take me seriously as a proper actor.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, I started to seek and desire that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And Barrie Rutter from Northern Broadsides came to see me, and I was doing a radio show called *What's So Great About*, you know, Bob Dylan, The Pogues, maths.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: That stuff. And one of the shows was *What's So Great About Shakespeare*?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And Barrie Rutter came on the radio to do a kind of insert about why Shakespeare should be done in your own accent. You shouldn't just do it in a posh voice.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: To be or not to be, that's the question. It could be to be or not to be, that's the question.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Whether it's just noble or in the mind, you can do it in your own accent wherever you're from. And it was a game changer for me, 'cause I'd always been scared of Shakespeare, you know, 'cause at my school, me and Ronnie Barton were made to read out Romeo and Juliet. It was not pretty. Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou, Romeo?

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was just not good. And, um, and, and so I just thought it was for posh people-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -With tights on, with a cucumber down their tights. I just thought it was for them-

[laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: -not for me. And then Rutter did, 'Oh, for a muse of fire,'

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Down the phone, and it was brilliant. It made my— made the hairs-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -on my arms stand up.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Because here was a bloke who's fully invested in it, fully invested in using his normal whole voice. And his dad was a fisherman, and he just said, this is— I can do Shakespeare. ‘Blow winds and crack your cheeks.’ I can do that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Why shouldn't I be able to do that?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And he made me feel like I could do it too. And when he, when he does it, he plays. So, he gets up and-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh

SIR LENNY HENRY: -he moves things around. You sat here, you've got a knife, you don't know where the knife is, you know it's there, and there's two dead birds on the bed. You've killed them, it's your bloody fault. You believed Iago, you shouldn't have believed him, you daft sod. Anyway, you sat there, and he just acted the whole thing out.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And it just made me, you know when you were playing as a kid?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was like that. It was like, "Ooh, I'm gonna be Othello in a minute, and I'm gonna have a knife, and I'm gonna kill myself."

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: I've never been so happy. Anyway, that day-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -that one day at Broadcasting House, it just changed my life.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I just thought, "I wanna do that."

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then the year later, there I was, I'm walking down the Hedgerow, or whatever it's called in Leeds, looking at me with me top off, over the West Yorkshire, I look like a podgy Denzel Washington.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: And just me looking at myself, Lenny Henry is Othello, and I went, oh!

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And it was the most exciting thing I've ever done-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: -'cause I just didn't know if it was gonna work.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was that thing of, you gotta jump.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: You either stay here and be safe

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Or you jump. And that was my moment to jump. There were many nights when I was asleep, when I would wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning with the glass of red. My face glued to the script like that with drool.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Like that. And I just carry on, you know

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh my god.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I just carry on running the line. I ran the lines and read the script every day.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: All the way through. And even before, I remember going on just before you went on to the last scene, I'd be up against a pillar waiting to go on. We'd all do, we were all doing press-ups because we wanted to look hench.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: You do press-ups.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We do them before this.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I know.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: Look at those guns, Angela. So, but before I went on, I'd be up against the pillar running the line-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -just making sure, you know. You don't do that, but I just wanted to be proper

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: On stage and it paid off, you know.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: The work paid off. And what's great is it pays off and you don't have to be nervous as long as you've done the work.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: If you haven't done the work, if you're just trying to blag it, it might go wrong-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah of course.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -halfway through.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: You know, to be your—

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, that's quite a bad

SIR LENNY HENRY: -line.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Line. *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: You don't want that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You don't want that.

SIR LENNY HENRY: You don't want that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That's a bad line to forget.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Well, you went on to win the Best Newcomer Award.

SIR LENNY HENRY: At 50.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: Come on. So, proves it pays off.

SIR LENNY HENRY: You might encourage a guy.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, proves it paid off. Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah, it was lovely to win that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was a tough competition, too.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And there's so much we wanna talk to you about.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We've of course gotta talk about Comic Relief with you.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Woo-hoo!

NICK GRIMSHAW: It started in 1985, but the very first Red Nose Day was 1988.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: So, we're nearly at 40-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -years of it. Do you remember those early days when it was starting out? And did you have any idea that you would be, you know, launching something that would be so powerful and still going 4 decades later.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I was with Richard Curtis today-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -actually, and we often talk about it. He was— we're basically both saying it's extraordinary that it's still going-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -because we didn't think it was going to— we did the show at the Shaftesbury Theatre, and Richard had just been to Ethiopia because there'd been a terrible famine there, and he just wanted to get a sense of what he could do and everything. And then he came back, and he said to me, will you help me? Because I knew people, I had my own show [*sings*] *Lenny Henry Show*. Lenny, Lenny, Lenny.

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: I had that show in the '80s, and the Delbert Wilkins, and stuff.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And people knew who I was.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And so, he said, would you help me? Because people— I just write, not the 9 o'clock news, nobody knows who I am yet. You know, I hadn't done *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, I, I just wrote with Richard to everybody in showbiz to say, will you do this show?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And quite a lot of people, the older guys, didn't want to do it because they thought helping people in the third world was nailing your colours to the mast politically.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Right.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And they didn't want to do anything that would mess up their brand.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Image, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: But all of us lot said yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Me, Rick, Ade, Dawn, Jen, Nigel, Cliff Richard— he's not one of us lot, but you know what I mean—

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

[crew laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: Justin, Billy Connolly, Victoria Wood.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: Everybody said, we'll do it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And we did this show at the Shaftesbury Theatre. It was a stunning success. And that's where I did, you know, Romeo and Juliet with Frank Bruno. Juliet, Juliet.

ANGELA HARTNETT: I remember, I remember.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah. *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: I haven't seen these since the weigh-in night

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -you know. We did that and we did Theophilus P. Wildebeest, and we did all— and Victoria Wood, and Dawn and Jen-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: - did Sex Talk.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah

SIR LENNY HENRY: And it was a legendary night.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And the young one, and Rick came on and said, ‘Do you love me?’ *[snorts]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: You know, Rick did that. And it was just a brilliant night and we raised about £3 million.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then we were at my house getting drunk and I said, it should be a night on the telly. We should just do our favourite things and it should be all night.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And so, Richard said, hold my beer. And the next thing you know, Red Nose Day.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: We've invented a day that didn't exist before. And we did the first one and we raised £15 million quid.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mad.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, the British public just did that.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And they've had our backs for, ever since then-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -40 years.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That always astounds me when you hear about how much money's raised, you know, because it always can be in a time of crisis-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -and yet the British public always dig deep and go for it. It's incredible.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And not just the British public-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -everybody who gives their time for free-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -all the punters, all the DJs, all the MCs, all of, everybody.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: We did, you know, we did a Red Hair Day, and all the hairdressers, anybody who's contributed to Comic Relief is a legend because-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -we've now raised nearly £2 billion.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm. It's a lot.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It's extraordinary.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It's crazy.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, I think that as long as it keeps going, and as long as the younger turns, the younger comedians and actors-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -take it on.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes. Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I think they will.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Comic Relief will just keep going.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: So, I'm really proud. It's, it's something I feel very proud of.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, good, rightly so.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I just remember it being such a highlight of my childhood.

ANGELA HARTNETT: The calendar year, you always remember it, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It was still like always something that I'd always watch. I was like desperate to have-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -a red nose, like desperate to.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Have to wear it to school. And I was always like too little, and it'd be sort of falling off

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: and you'd walk into school like that, so it'd stay on.

[crew laughs]

NICK GRIMSHAW: I loved it and I'd make everyone shut up and watch it.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: My, my sister, our Jane, always says that I'd always like have it on and I'd sort of do crisps in a bowl.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That was a sense of occasion.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Nice.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And then if anyone talked, they weren't allowed to talk, and I'd be like

SIR LENNY HENRY: Shh shh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Physically turning their heads to like-

[everyone laughs]

NICK GRIMSHAW: -watch it, watch it. Like my gran's like 80, I'm like, watch it. I loved it, I loved it. So, and I'd be like fighting to stay awake.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Oh.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Try and stay up all night.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And I'd always fall asleep and then my mum said I'd go asleep and then wake up and be like, how much did they raise?

[everyone laughs]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Like, I was obsessed with it. I was obsessed with it. I loved it so much.

[theme music plays]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh my God, we got to talk about Prince.

SIR LENNY HENRY: My name is Prince, I love Prince.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We have to talk about Prince. Can you tell this brilliant story, please?

SIR LENNY HENRY: He was sexy as hell.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh man

[crew laughs]

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: Did you ever see Prince, Ange?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes, I saw him live twice.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Love him.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Where did you see him?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Saw him at Wembley Arena.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: So, the small gig.

NICK GRIMSHAW: What year was this?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Like, oh God, hold on. I would have been a secondary school, so between—

SIR LENNY HENRY: What?

NICK GRIMSHAW: 2010?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, I'm, yeah.

[crew laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: What?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Something like that?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Sorry, sorry.

NICK GRIMSHAW: No, go on.

SIR LENNY HENRY: You must have been—

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow, wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: But you must have seen him do the *Dirty Mind* tour because that's just recent.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No. Oh, very sweet. No, I must have— yeah, so secondary school I would have seen him, so that would have been before the 90s—

NICK GRIMSHAW: How was it seeing Prince when you were at secondary school?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Uh-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Like wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -amazing, because he was one of the key players.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: At the same time, you saw Bowie, you know

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: All, you know, saw Madonna. And I remember seeing, um, Madonna with my sister who was 7 years younger than me-

SIR LENNY HENRY: Bloody hell.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -and we were right in the front audience, and me having to sort of get her out because I thought, oh my God, she's gonna die here because everyone was—

SIR LENNY HENRY: Was it a press?

ANGELA HARTNETT: -at the front. Yeah, all of that thing. But Prince was great because I know I remember *Purple Rain*-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: -and it sort of like rained on stage in a weird way.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: It was.

SIR LENNY HENRY: He was so great.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, he was amazing.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Although he had his moments though, didn't he, Prince? There was always—I went to see him at the O2 or something.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Earl's Court, O2, Wembley.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And there was always a moment at a Prince concert when he just decided to improvise some jazz.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And that's when you went to get a footlong hot dog.

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: Because Prince, Prince can noodle for hours.

NICK GRIMSHAW: You'll be like are we here for a bit.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And suddenly there's a bit of Mozart happening.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: Anybody else want a footlong? Yeah, I want a footlong hot dog.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: When he starts *Raspberry Beret*, we'll go back in.

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was just amazing. And there was one when-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -there was one where he didn't have a record deal because he hated *Warner Brothers*-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -because they weren't letting him buy his masters. And he did this one show where it was clearly no set.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. [laughs] No money.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was like a ghetto set.

ANGELA HARTNETT: [laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: He was just wearing— obviously couldn't afford a costume. It's just a white leotard with no pants on-

[everyone laughs]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -which is— that was a great show.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. [laughs]

NICK GRIMSHAW: [laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: He was doing dancing. He was playing extended funk workouts.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Now, I like a bit of a funk workout-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh

SIR LENNY HENRY: -so 10 minutes of funk improvisation-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -because Larry Graham from *Graham Central Station*, *Sly and the Family Stone* was on the bass-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and it was one of the best nights of my life.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then, and then! We did Comic Relief

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Did *Top of the Pops*.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I was the host, and you know, they asked me to host.

[laughs]

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was like other sweet coming on. I mean, it was like literally hosting *Top of the Pops* on my own, and Prince comes on.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I didn't know it was on, and it was when he was wearing the— it was when he was wearing the thing over his face.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I can't remember what the song was-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -but it was, he was brilliant-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and he did it 5 times.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: This was, he did it once and we all went, "Ah!" And then they said, "Oh, are we moving on?" "No, we're not moving on because Prince wants to do it again."

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: He ran up to the booth. "Yeah, I like that. Yeah, let's do one more." And then he'd come back down and then he'd do it again. And then he went, "Hmm, let me do that." He did it 5 times.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was amazing.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Take That, once, off.

NICK GRIMSHAW: And they're like, "Let's get out of here." *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah, Take That. Robbie's like, "I'm off down the pub."

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: That was it. Literally once.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Magic.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Just once.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: But it was great watching him work-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and seeing the precision with which he-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -played and also-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh

SIR LENNY HENRY: -knew where the cameras were.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: He was amazing. I just— he was a real hero of mine-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and I got to meet him.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And it was when he had 'Slave' written on his face.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Because I did the *Lenny Henry Show*, and Chaka Khan was on.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh love.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Chaka Khan. And she said, "My birthday party is on Thursday, having a party. Want to come?" And I was like, "Not sure, Chaka. You know, I mean-"

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: 'I've got things I need to be doing.' And she said 'Prince is coming on.' 'I'm there, I'm there!' And it was in this club, right?

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And it was like, the club was like chlamydia with a bar. And then-

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -literally you went in, and it was so sticky carpet, you know-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh nasty, nasty.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -horrible. But it was this really funky club.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And, um, downstairs, there were all these Black British funk soul divas.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Me, Mica Paris and Caron Wheeler from *Soul to Soul*-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and Jaki Graham.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh my God.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And they were all trying, because Prince was there.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And they're all trying to have a go, Aaah! *[sings]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: *[sings]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: Say hello to him, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And literally Beverley Knight popped a lung.

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: And Mica Price went, 'Aaah!' And the ambulance was there in seconds.

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then— and so I went upstairs and went— because I didn't want to listen to the divas anymore. And Prince was sat there.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And he knew who I was.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: He said *[in an American accent]* 'You're Lenny, right?'

ANGELA HARTNETT: Wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I went, oh my days.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And luckily, I was wearing the Tena pants. So—

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and I went and sat next to him. Just talk for about an hour and a half.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh fantastic.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I can't even remember what we talked-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -it's like meeting the royal family, but I literally-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -couldn't— can't remember what we talked about.

NICK GRIMSHAW: But didn't you do— you ended up on a track with him?

SIR LENNY HENRY: Yeah, I did, um, I did, uh, because I was doing Theophilus P. Wildebeeste, he, um, I did it on Comic Relief-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and also on Amnesty, and Kate Bush was there both times-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Uh-huh.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Mm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and she just said, do you want to come and make a record with me? And I was like— and I was a massive fan.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yes.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Went to her house and, um, she made me scrambled eggs and we chatted about it. And then she said, do you want to go in the studio? And I said, yes. And I put the cans on, and I heard this guitar and this vocal thing. I thought, well, that's Kate. And I heard the guitar, and I went, that's Prince.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I said, is this Prince? And she went, yeah, it is. Yeah. It's good, innit? And I went, is it good?! Ahhhhh!

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: He wasn't even there, and I wet myself again.

ANGELA HARTNETT: [laughs]

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I had to fit in between her and Prince.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Wow.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It was one of the best days of my life. It was wonderful.

[theme music plays]

NICK GRIMSHAW: Well, Lenny, we've not had time to do the entire life story-

SIR LENNY HENRY: *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: -but you can experience Lenny Henry's tour.

SIR LENNY HENRY: That would take years.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It would take years, darling. You can see Lenny on the stage, *Still at Large*, on tour across the UK until November time. So, make sure you get a ticket. Go see Sir Lenny Henry live. Ah, Lenny, are you ready for the fast-food quiz?

SIR LENNY HENRY: *[sings]* Yes, I'm ready.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: Okay, it's quickfire.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Quickfire.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Here we go. Lenny Henry, what is the best way to eat eggs?

SIR LENNY HENRY: I think um, scrambled, but if you're brave, just suck it out.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh.

[crew laughs]

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, never had that before.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Just do that. just go, go like that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Rocky style.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Have you not seen Rocky?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Rocky style.

SIR LENNY HENRY: 6 eggs, boom, bang, gone.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Gone.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Gone.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Throw up when nobody's looking.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[throw up sound effect]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: *[throw up sound effect]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: What's your favourite sandwich filling?

SIR LENNY HENRY: Well, I like a bacon and egg sandwich.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Nice.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And I do like tuna mayo actually-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -with crunchy red pepper.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, yeah. What is your favourite form of potato?

SIR LENNY HENRY: I like baked, I like the roasties, but I'm a big fan of the fondant potatoes.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, cooked in butter.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I want to learn how to do that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: All right.

NICK GRIMSHAW: If only there was a great teacher around.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. I can teach you. What's your favourite herb?

[crew laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: I like the guy in Peaches & Herb.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: He's good.

SIR LENNY HENRY: He's very, very good.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love him.

SIR LENNY HENRY: He's really, really good.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And Parsley the Lion.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: Oh, I'm a dog called Dill.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: And Dill, Dill the dog.

NICK GRIMSHAW: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: My name is Dill. I'm Dill the dog. I'm a dog called Dill. I used to love that show.

NICK GRIMSHAW: What is the best crisp in your opinion?

SIR LENNY HENRY: *[gasps]* Well-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Come on.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -I like Ready Salted, but I'm a secret fan of the chicken, roast chicken flavour.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, roast chicken.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I know it's all chemicals, but they taste delicious.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: It is. Yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah. Favourite um, chocolate bar?

SIR LENNY HENRY: Well, it used to be Old Jamaica. It still is. Old Jamaica was-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -rum, raisin-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and chocolate.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Nice.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And when you're 16, that is the bomb.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Of course.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I used to eat that all the time, and then I'd be on the roof all night.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: We'd be over the park playing and I'd just be over there, "Ahh!" "I'll go in goal, I'll play centre forward, I'll do anything."

NICK GRIMSHAW: End of the show question. Sir Lenny Henry, for your chance to win this Waitrose goodie bag here-

SIR LENNY HENRY: *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: -all you gotta do—

SIR LENNY HENRY: What are you giving me a goodie bag for? This is great.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, you gotta win the goodie bag. You gotta win the goodie bag.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I'm sorry I didn't finish my dinner.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Oh, don't worry.

NICK GRIMSHAW: All you gotta do is answer this question to win the Waitrose goodie bag.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Go on.

NICK GRIMSHAW: We want to take a look back at what, with you celebrating 5 decades in entertainment, we want to look back at 5 decades of kitchen gadgets.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Makes sense, we're Dish. Please, with justification, tell us your favourite and least favourite. The gadgets are the Toasty Maker from the 1970s. The salad spinner of the 1980s. The George Foreman grill of the 1990s. 2000s, the Nutribullet. 2010s, the air fryer. Least favourite and most favourite, please. Lenny.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Do you want to see the list?

NICK GRIMSHAW: You have the list. There's the list. There's the list. There's the list.

SIR LENNY HENRY: I have no idea about the, the toastie maker.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh, I love toastie.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Did you like a toastie, toastie maker?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah.

NICK GRIMSHAW: I love a toastie maker.

ANGELA HARTNETT: That would be my favourite.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Lisa keeps going on at me about an air fryer.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Did everybody in the world have a Nutribullet?

ANGELA HARTNETT: No.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And then did everybody put it to one side because they had a blender?

NICK GRIMSHAW: I was-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Never had one.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -heavily influenced by Nutribullet. I saw the advert one night. I had jet lag, and I was in LA, and I saw it and I was like, I'm getting that.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Did you still use it?

NICK GRIMSHAW: I saw it on the telly. Do I still use it? No.

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: My point exactly.

ANGELA HARTNETT: There you go.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Do I have one? Yes. I think I've got 3.

SIR LENNY HENRY: We had 2.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

SIR LENNY HENRY: We had 2.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, yeah.

ANGELA HARTNETT: No

SIR LENNY HENRY: And it was gonna change our lives. We're gonna have a Nutribullet.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: It's gonna be fresh every morning-

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -smoothie, whatever.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Blender.

SIR LENNY HENRY: We did it once. We've got a blender. What we having a Nutribullet for?

ANGELA HARTNETT: Exactly.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Yeah, we got excited.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Even though we haven't got one, the air fryer seems to be changing my entire— ‘Uncle Lenny, you've got to get an air fryer. It's brilliant. You put everything in there, including your feet, and it's just-’

[everyone laughs]

SIR LENNY HENRY: ‘-and you just cook everything in it.’ The Nutribullet, sort of rubbish.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Mm-hm.

SIR LENNY HENRY: The air fryer, I think, is the future, but I'm resisting it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Okay-

ANGELA HARTNETT: Yeah, go for it.

NICK GRIMSHAW: -there we go. Lenny Henry.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Thank you. Woo.

[cheering and applause]

NICK GRIMSHAW: The goodie bag is yours, Lenny. It is yours.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Can I say this has been joyous and lovely.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh my God.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Thank you.

SIR LENNY HENRY: And thank you very, very much.

ANGELA HARTNETT: A pleasure.

SIR LENNY HENRY: You must do some chicken next time, Angela, because-

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

NICK GRIMSHAW: Oh yeah come on.

SIR LENNY HENRY: -and you must season the food. And how do you season the food? You dash it in.

ANGELA HARTNETT: *[laughs]*

[theme music plays]

NICK GRIMSHAW: A round of applause for Sir Lenny Henry, everybody. Thank you, Lenny.

SIR LENNY HENRY: Thank you very, very much.

NICK GRIMSHAW: That was so fun.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Thank you.

NICK GRIMSHAW: If that episode has left you wanting more, find us on Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. Just search Dish.

ANGELA HARTNETT: If you wanna make any of the meals I cook on Dish, head to [waitrose.com/dishrecipes](https://www.waitrose.com/dishrecipes) for all the ingredients and the recipes.

NICK GRIMSHAW: Email your questions, thoughts, and suggestions to dish@waitrose.co.uk.

ANGELA HARTNETT: Dish from Waitrose is a Cold Glass production.

VOICEOVER: Waitrose, the home of food lovers.