

SERVICE

Episode 1 - "PASTA ALLA"

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101 INT. RESTAURANT

Inside of Specials a young family is sitting at a table, a father, a mother, and small child are sitting eating.

They are approached by five members of staff carrying a cake with nine birthday candles, singing the "Specials" birthday song.

Four of the staff members are enthusiastically singing and dancing whilst JOE ANDERSON has a pained embarrassed look on his face.

Female staff member approaches the table first.

ALICIA
Hey little guy, I hear it's your
birthday.

All five staff members enter and break out into performance.

ALL
(Sings)
We hope you have a specials
birthday, how old are you today?

CHILD
(Shy)
Nine.

ALL
We hope you have a specials
birthday, and all your dreams come
true. We hope you have a specials
birthday.

JOE
(Reluctantly) From all of us to
you.

ALL
We hope you have a specials
birthday from all of us to you. So,
blow the candles out on this cake,
and make all your dreams come true.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Child blows candles out looking quite scared by the song and everyone claps and cheers.

JOE is looking embarrassed and uninvolved as ALICIA gives him an angry nudge, and he joins in.

102 EXT. RESTAURANT - OUTSIDE

JOE on camera being asked questions from an INTERVIEWER behind the camera.

JOE

Yeah, it was a strange day, I can't believe it was a year ago. It feels eight months at best, nine months maybe.

INTERVIEWER

So how long ago was the incident?

JOE

Well... A year ago.

INTERVIEWER

So, were you on shift that day?

JOE

Yeah, I was supposed to get out at nine and because of that I didn't leave till 12, had to cancel my plans. Annoying.

INTERVIEWER

What plans did you have?

JOE

Well, nothing much just me and my mate Ted were going to catch up on our soaps for the week, only managed to get through all the Hollyoaks, fell asleep.

INTERVIEWER

What do you remember from that day?

JOE

Well Mercedes got off with Joe or something, I don't know I was half asleep.

INTERVIEWER

(Frustrated)

Not on Hollyoaks, the incident.

JOE

Oh right, well it was a normal shift, I know this one woman was complaining a lot, I was looking for him, but he'd disappeared.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

Then all of a sudden, we heard this loud bang, I was going to go out and investigate but I was in the middle of the special's birthday song, they go on forever. Then he came running in with a knife and told everyone to get on the floor.

INTERVIEWER

A Knife?

JOE

Oh, it was only one of those small ones we use to cut cocktail fruit on the bar.

INTERVIEWER

How did you react?

JOE

I said Brian, what are you doing? But he didn't respond, he just had this manic look on his face.

INTERVIEWER

Were you scared?

JOE

No, it's not even a sharp knife, what was he going to do? Slightly graze me to death!

INTERVIEWER

So why did you get on the floor?

JOE

Well, I just didn't want to feel left out.

103 INT. RESTAURANT

New manager Denise Powell is chatting to two elderly guests who are trying to eat but are politely listening, being overly friendly.

You can make out small snippets of her dialogue, such as, "Yes it hasn't been easy."

104 INT. KITCHEN

JOE who is walking with the cameraman following behind him as he leads outside to the car park.

JOE
Yeah, I'll show you where it happened, he just drove his range rover into the wall. He lost it, absolutely flipped his lid.

INTERVIEWER
Was he a good boss before?

JOE
Oh yeah Brian was great, got on well. Lovely man, aside from driving the car into the wall and holding everyone hostage thing, he was spot on. Stress gets to us all, we've all imagined doing something like that before.

INTERVIEWER
Have you thought about it?

JOE
I can't drive (Points to wall)
Anyway this is where the car hit, look at that, they still haven't rebuilt it. But we've reopened, we've got you here, and that's still there, it's like a shrine to the guy. People actually started laying flowers down, no one died, he only lives in a small flat down the road. I'm pretty sure he still gets free food.

105 INT. BAR

JOE is chatting to TED at the bar.

TED
I've been working on a new cocktail Joe.

JOE
Oh, right good, what is it?

TED
Well, I'm calling it the Ted Specials Special.

JOE
That does sound special, what's in it?

TED
Well, we got all kinds of tangy stuff in there, Orange, Pineapple, Grapefruit all that good stuff.

JOE
Is there any alcohol in there?

TED
Er... (Looks at liquor rail) er, vodka... and a bit of rum.

JOE
You won't be able to sell that, it's not on the menu, is it?

A guest approaches the bar and picks up a drink's menu.

TED
Hello there, sod that don't look at the menu, I've got the drink for you, Ted's Specials Special.

GUEST
Erm.. No thanks I just want a Coke.

TED
Right, you got it, coming your way, right in your face. Ok, Orange, Pineapple nice and beachy, sexy sexy, we need sexy, grapefruit, nice and sexy (looks at guest) sexy yeah. Ok some Vodka, er let me see, beaches, pirates...rum! (pirate voice) aghhh. Sexy times on the beach. Mix it (Spills drink) Oops.

JOE
Make sure you clean that up or you'll end up slipping on it.

Ted starts to mix the drink whilst making pirate noises.

TED
There you are, get that down your gullet. Right to your stomach and then to your head.

The guest takes a sip of the drink.

GUEST
Look, I don't drink alcohol.

TED
That'll be £9.50 please.

Camera pans away from TED and frames JOE and ALICIA who have just joined them at the bar.

ALICIA
What are you doing talking to that idiot? Get back to work we've got four more birthday songs to sing.

JOE
It's always someone's birthday.

DENISE enters.

DENISE
Alicia, our delivery's here, go sort it out.

ALICIA
I'm on it boss.

ALICIA exits.

106 INT. OFFICE

DENISE talking to camera.

DENISE
Well, this place was finished, totally finished, who would have wanted to come to a restaurant where you thought you'd get a knife put to your throat. Then they called me, Denise Powell, woman of the moment. Restaurant saver, yeah, I like that, restaurant saver.
We've changed the whole image of the place to make it more special than it was. You see Specials is not just a brand, it's a life. I feel special and I want all my guests to feel special too. I want to take care of their special needs.

(MORE)

DENISE (CONT'D)

And now you guys are here to watch the magic, to film your documentary on a thriving business.

INTERVIEWER

Well obviously, we're here because of what happened, the manager lost the plot and drove a car into a wall.

DENISE

Yeah, but that's the past, he was a headcase. You won't see that happening to me. No no, I'm a beacon of calm, I'm all about positive energy and I pass that onto my staff.

Camera pans to DENISE clutching a stress ball.

INTERVIEWER

So, do your staff react well to your methods?

DENISE

Oh definitely, they absolutely adore me. After everything that happened, they're glad to have someone in charge that they can be inspired by and look up to. You see Specials isn't just a brand, not just a restaurant, no, it's Special. You see, I am special.

Exterior shot of boxes being brought into the restaurant by a delivery driver whilst Alicia has her back to him.

107 INT. BAR

TED is at the bar bent behind the counter washing glasses in the sink.

A drag queen approaches the bar looking to buy a drink. The woman leans over the bar to catch TED's attention.

KIKI

Hello darling.

TED raises his head and is shocked.

TED

Hi.

KIKI
I'll just have a skinny margarita
please, need to watch my weight.

TED
Er yeah sure mate...er love..er yeah,
what, I didn't say anything, yeah.

KIKI
Ooh you're a bit of a nervous
nelly! What's the matter love, not
seen a real woman before!

TED
Yeah, I'm fine, it's just I don't
know, I mean what I mean is..what
are you?

KIKI
The name is Kiki Swallows.

Holds out hand for TED to kiss. TED shakes her hand.

TED
Oh, ok, erm I'm Ted. You see, I'm a
bit confused, you are a man, aren't
you?

KIKI
I am whatever I want to be darling,
and not that it is any of your
business, however you are
observant. Am I not the most
beautiful women you've ever met?

TED
Well to be honest you look a lot
like my dad's friend.

KIKI
And what does this beautiful woman
do, is she a model?

TED
No, he's a builder. In fact...John?

KIKI
No dear, how about you not
overthink the situation and get me
that drink?

TED

Oh yeah sure sure (Starts making drink) Look I'm sorry, I hope I haven't offended you, I guess somethings are a bit unknown to me and hey I've got nothing against gay people.

KIKI

Oh, I'm not gay.

TED

What, so you like women?

KIKI

No, I like men honey.

TED

Well, I'm confused.

KIKI

I prefer not to characterize myself, I'm just a person with individual beliefs.

TED

I can see the appeal mind you, you look really comfy.

KIKI

I live my life how I choose to live it, and I don't care what society thinks, most people are ok with it, you do meet the odd tosser. Have you never met a drag queen before?

TED

Funnily enough I got drive by gayed once.

KIKI

Drive by gayed?

TED

Well, I was just hanging out on the street corner minding my own business, when a car drove by full of drag queens and they all shouted, "Hellooo fellow heterosexuals!" Drive by gayed.

KIKI laughs at TED still waiting patiently for her drink.

