

Sketch: The Global Café

Cast **One** and **two** (two women) out for a meal). **Waiter**

Setting

A restaurant. The table is centre stage. There is a candle on the table, cruet set, etc. **One** and **Two** are sitting at the table. The **Waiter** should have a trolley to bring the food on, ideally. The **Waiter's** costume is described below. Just try to make it as cosmopolitan as possible.

One: Well, it's so lovely to see you.

Two: Yes, it must be ages.

They pick up their menus

One: So, what do you fancy?

Two: The menu looks... fantastic.

One: Yes, I think so. Donald and I come here a lot. It's so terribly authentic.

Two: Is it?

One: Oh yes, I mean look what it says on the menu - 'Totally Authentic World Cuisine'.

Two: *(Reading menu)* It's certainly very global.

One: Well, they serve food from around the world. And what I like is that they only use authentically local ingredients.

The waiter arrives. He should be wearing a mix of national costumes. You could put him in a French beret, with an Hawaiian shirt and a kilt. And possibly clogs.

Waiter: Can I help You?

One: Well it all looks lovely. What do you recommend?

Waiter: Well, many people go for our famous 'World Cities Platter'. That's Peking Duck, Chicken Kiev, Bombay Potato and Brussell Sprouts. On a burger.

Two: What's the 'War of the Roses Special'?

Waiter: Lancashire Hot Pot in a Yorkshire Pudding.

One: And 'Not the Full English'?

Waiter: That's Irish Stew, Scotch Eggs and some Welsh Rarebit.

One: Marvelous.

Waiter: Or, you could go for the Asia Minor Sandwich.

Two: What's that?

Waiter: Turkey.

Two: I must say, they've got something for everyone here. What's the Double South American?

Waiter: Brazil Nuts. With chilli.

One: What are today's desserts?

Waiter: There's Baked Alaska, Dundee Cake, Black Forest Gateau, Danish Pastries and, if you want something out of this world, Mars Bars.

ONE: Well, I think I'll stay closer to home this time. *(Ordering)* I'll go for the World of Sausages.

TWO: I fancy something a bit hotter. *(Looks at the menu)* Ooh, African food. *(Ordering)* I'll have the 'Sub-Saharan Surprise'.

WAITER: Excellent choice, Madam.

Waiter exits

TWO: So how did you find this place?



Sketch: The Global Café

ONE: Well, we just chanced on it really. We were looking through the Restaurant guide and it came up under Indian. And Mexican. And Moroccan. And Belgian. And...well you get the idea.

TWO: I love the décor.

ONE: Yes, it's an unusual mix – kind of a Mediterranean Igloo.

Waiter returns

WAITER: Your sausages, Madam. One Lincolnshire, one Cumberland, two Wiener Schnitzel and a Frankfurter...do you want Dijon Mustard with that?

One: Lovely

Waiter: You get of course a complimentary drink.

He gives her a teapot and a cup

WAITER: Darjeeling

ONE: Thank you

Waiter disappears

TWO: That looks scrummy. Can't wait for mine.

The waiter brings out the trolley. He takes a clean white plate, polishes it carefully with a napkin and lays it on the table. Then, ceremonially and with great care, he pours a pile of dry, sandy earth into the middle of the plate

TWO: (uncertain) I'm sorry. What's that?

WAITER: Your Sub-Saharan Surprise, Madam. Frankly, it's not been a very good growing season. No rain.

TWO: This is shocking!

WAITER: Well, we did say it was a surprise.

TWO: But there's nothing to eat there. Nothing at all.

WAITER: Don't worry; we do have your complimentary drink.

He pours her a glass of water out of a dirty plastic jug. The water is green and murky

TWO: That... that looks like you got it out of the local pond!

WAITER: (Shocked) Don't be ridiculous Madam! We would never do that.

TWO: I should think not!

WAITER: We got it out of an African pond.

TWO: But it's full of dirt and disease and (peering closely) lots of things swimming about. I can't drink that!

WAITER: Why not? Millions of other people have to drink it.

TWO: I'd be ill. I could die from that! How dare you treat me this way?

WAITER: Madam, we did offer you the full menu. You had a choice (holding up the glass). Unlike the people who have to drink this stuff.

ONE: (Rising from table) Come on. We're leaving.

TWO: (Joining her) Honestly! Expecting me to exist on nothing but a glass of filthy, disease-ridden water.

ONE: It's an outrage.

They exit

WAITER: You're quite right, Madam. You are absolutely right.

Freeze. Then exit