18 DAILY STAR, Monday, March 30, 2020

SO SAUCY: Spag bol

Italian a scoffer we can't refuse..

WE have such a taste for Italian food we scoff it an average three times a week.

A poll found spaghetti bolognese, pizza and lasagne are the most popular meals on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays respectively.

We then opt for more traditional British fare – with cottage pie the top choice on Thursdays and fish and chips on Friday.

Sunday is, of course, roast day – and most of us like to get an Indian or Chinese takeaway in on Saturdays.

The poll also found Geordies are most likely to eat in front of the telly.

Some 53% admit sitting on the sofa with a tray at least four nights a week.

Londoners were least likely to have TV dinners, at 25%, and as a whole 43% of us admit to dining in front of the box four times a week

And 10% even owned up to eating their dinner in bed with the telly on.

Hotel chain Travelodge, which did the study, found that the average family has dinner at 7pm.

Some 25% consider it "old fashioned" to eat before 5pm.

WORD OF

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THE DAY

£104m chunk for Cadbury

CADBURY was our fastestgrowing food brand last year after sales surged £104million to hit £1.68billion.

The giant was already our biggest brand and the haul eclipsed the £30million combined rise of every other chocolate maker in The Grocer's top 100 products.

Cadbury was followed in the trade magazine's top five Coca-Cola, Walkers and Warburtons.

Claire Lowe, of Cadbury owner Mondelez, said: "We had a phenomenal year."

CRACKING GAGS FEW DARE TEI TASSET STATES Mora row

COMEDIAN Andrew Doyle has just made a brave confession. 'Sometimes Donald Trump will tweet something I find funny," he's admitted. 'You have to acknowledge he can do that."

That's not to say Andrew is a fan of the US president. Far from it.

It's just he hates being told what he can and can't chuckle at.

That's why, besides being a successful performer in his own right, he co-founded Comedy Unleashed – a London event where stand-ups can try out gags they are afraid to try elsewhere.

Gags that might upset the politically correct "woke movement" and the easily offended.

"There's a kind of groupthink going on in the comedy industry," he explains.

"Some opinions are considered acceptable and will help your career. Others are considered unacceptable and will damage it. I don't think that's very civilised.

"So we wanted to put on a night that encourages free thinking, where acts can take risks. That includes the potential to offend.

"It's not about being as crude or as vicious as possible. We're not interested in that. just that there

should be no such thing in comedy as a safe space. Andrew is aware the

event has its detractors.

"They'll say: 'Oh, you just want an excuse to be racist on stage'. That's ludicrous. There's a difference between joking about race and being racist.

"Similarly with homophobia. If I joke about homosexuality, that doesn't mean the joke's a homophobic joke."

And as for accusations of pandering to the right, he points out most of the acts, like him, are actually on the left.

"I don't care what your politics are. I just care if you're funny.

Andrew is better known to many as his online alter ego, a satirical character called Titania McGrath, inset above.

While Andrew's own Twitter account has 92,600 followers, as Titania he is approaching half a million.

Titania, in a nutshell, is so woke it's **resistingwokeness.com**



laughable. But many take her at face value. That's the gag.

In her guise, Andrew will routinely post earnestly right-on remarks such as "the coronavirus is transphobic" – then sit back and wait for the reaction.

"I really enjoy it when she gets into arguments. And I always stay in character.
"I want to see how absurd I can get

before people clock."

There's a serious point, mind you.
"Twitter is a bit of a cesspit. I'm doing this to satirise the kind of social justice activists who use it to spread their ideas.

"They claim to be fighting for justice, yet they're some of the most vicious people you'll find."

Andrew's comic hero is the late Victoria Wood. Other favourites include French & Saunders and The Office.

Talking of the latter, Ricky Gervais must be something of a hero, I suggest, given how much of his Twitter conduct echoes Andrew's beliefs.

"It's great because he can say what he wants. No-one's going to 'cancel' Ricky Gervais. He's got far too big a fan base. The

real concern is for young comics who don't feel they can express certain opinions because of the flak they'll get."

Andrew hopes this stifling comedy climate will just be a phase.

"Eventually, we'll move beyond this madness," he says. "That's fine by me.
"I don't want to have to keep talking

about this stuff.

'The best-case scenario is that I'm out of a iob!

To find out more about the free-thinking Comedy Unleashed, visit comedyunleashed.co.uk. And for details of Andrew's Q&A tour plans with author Douglas Murray, go to



FILM: A Room With A View BOOK: Shalimar The Clown, by Salman Rushdie **PLAY:** Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? by Edward Albee TV SHOW: The Singing Detective ACTOR: Tim Curry
COMEDIAN: Victoria Wood SOAP CHARACTER: Nell Mangel (Neighbours)
SPORTING EVENT: Annual sheep racing on the island of Sark

SPORTSPERSON: Dwayne Johnson **SONG:** Even In The Shadows, by Enya **SINGER:** Tori Amos **BAND:** Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Titch FOOD: Pizza DRINK: Champagne
CITY: Derry
HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Florence
GADGET: Chastity belt
FIGURE FROM HISTORY: Mary Toft

