



CLIFF CROOKS PUTS STRUGGLING CHEFS THROUGH THEIR PACES IN FOOD NETWORK'S NEW SERIES *CHEF BOOT CAMP*

Series Premieres Thursday, April 8th at 10pm ET/PT on Food Network

NEW YORK – March 5, 2021 – Food Network's newest series, *Chef Boot Camp*, takes a deep dive into one of the most critical and essential elements of restaurants everywhere – the chefs running the kitchen. The success of a restaurant starts and ends with the food they serve and trouble in the kitchen can jeopardize everything. Enter **Cliff Crooks**, Culinary Director of a global restaurant brand whose job entails making sure the entire enterprise runs smoothly, including hiring and firing the chefs for each kitchen. Now Cliff is taking his decades of expertise and embarking on a new mission to help struggling chefs from restaurants across the country prove that they deserve to keep running their kitchens. Nominated by their respective restaurant owners, each episode Cliff will put a trio of underperforming chefs through a grueling series of challenges to test their real-world culinary skills and fitness for the role. With their jobs on the line, these chefs will attempt to not only survive but thrive in *Chef Boot Camp* and prove to their owners they have the talent and passion it takes to succeed. *Chef Boot Camp* premieres Thursday, April 8th at 10pm ET/PT on Food Network.

"Cliff Crooks knows what it takes for a restaurant to be successful and in *Chef Boot Camp*, he brings his tremendous experience and a commitment to excellence to struggling restaurateurs and their kitchen staffs," said Courtney White, Food Network President. "Cliff's investment in these chefs is evident every step of the way as he gives everything he can to help them improve and succeed."

In each episode, three struggling chefs embark on a three-day boot camp with Cliff who will assess their skills in the kitchen and address their areas for improvement. After an introduction to each chef that reveals what brought them to boot camp, he gets a firsthand look and taste of one of their signature dishes to begin to understand what the issues may be. Next, the chefs must demonstrate fundamental cooking techniques of a classic dish which they must create on time and to Cliff's satisfaction, showing their skills, knowledge, and ability in the kitchen. Then, the chefs must bring it altogether - working a fast-paced, live dinner service at one of Cliff's restaurants, and then, finally, whipping up a creative, new dish for their restaurant owners to demonstrate their growth and progress from boot camp. Some will rise to the challenge while others will not, with the fate of their career in the hands of chef Cliff.

Chef Cliff Crooks has been cooking in prominent kitchens throughout New York City for more than 20 years. Prior to joining BLT Restaurant Group in 2010 as Executive Chef of BLT Steak New York, he held positions at Salute!, Blue Water Grill and Gramercy Tavern. Chef Cliff has appeared as a contestant on *Top Chef* and a judge on *Hell's Kitchen* and *Chopped Junior*, and will also be seen on Food Network's *Tournament of Champions*. After more than two years of leading the kitchen at BLT Steak New York, the hospitality group's flagship restaurant, Crooks was named Culinary Director of BLT Restaurant Group and has since played an integral role in inspiring culinary growth among his staff while demonstrating a strong commitment to the brand's ethos of exceeding expectations through outstanding food and hospitality.

Fans can get to know Cliff and learn some of his best cooking tips at [FoodNetwork.com/ChefBootCamp](https://www.foodnetwork.com/ChefBootCamp). Follow along with the competition on social media using #ChefBootCamp and tell us about your biggest cooking mistakes.

Chef Boot Camp is produced by Left/Right Productions for Food Network.

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FOOD NETWORK (www.foodnetwork.com) is a unique lifestyle network, website and magazine that connects viewers to the power and joy of food. The network strives to be viewers' best friend in food and is committed to leading by teaching, inspiring, empowering and entertaining through its talent and expertise. Food Network is distributed to nearly 100 million U.S. households and draws over 46 million unique web users monthly. Since launching in 2009, Food Network Magazine's rate base has grown 13 times and is the No. 2 best-selling monthly magazine on the newsstand, with 13.5 million readers. Food Network is owned by Discovery, Inc., a global leader in real life entertainment serving a passionate audience of superfans around the world and spanning 220 countries and territories; the portfolio also includes direct-to-consumer streaming services such as discovery+ and Food



Contact : Lauren Sklar
Phone : 646-336-3745, Email : lauren_sklar@discovery.com

Network Kitchen, along with premium brands Discovery Channel, HGTV, TLC, Investigation Discovery, Travel Channel, MotorTrend, Animal Planet, Science Channel, and the forthcoming multi-platform JV with Chip and Joanna Gaines, Magnolia Network as well as OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network, Discovery Kids in Latin America, and Eurosport.