



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

ANNE BURRELL AND NEW CO-HOST DARNELL FERGUSON TRANSFORM CAST OF SOCIAL MEDIA STARS FROM COOKING DISASTERS TO KITCHEN MASTERS IN *WORST COOKS IN AMERICA: VIRAL SENSATIONS*

Eight-Episode Season Premieres Sunday, January 1st at 8pm ET/PT on Food Network and discovery+

NEW YORK – November 22, 2022 – The competitors are influencers online but clueless in the kitchen in *Worst Cooks in America: Viral Sensations*, premiering with a supersized 90-minute episode on Sunday, January 1st at 8pm ET/PT on Food Network and discovery+. **Anne Burrell** is joined for the first time by **Darnell Ferguson** to lead culinary boot camp, where they take on the kitchen chaos, food fumbles and culinary confusion of these trending competitors IRL. From a paleontologist TikTokker and pop culture trendsetters to the Louisiana woman who went viral after using Gorilla Glue in her hair, the cast is filled with larger-than-life personalities who are determined to win “likes” for their improving cooking skills. With the red team led by Anne and blue by Darnell, this season’s competition is more buzz-worthy than ever, including challenges inspired by viral trends like Poke-Bowl-Go, Cake or Fake and Ice-Bucket trivia. In the end, only the most improved recruit left standing is awarded a \$25,000 grand prize and bragging rights for their mentor.

“*Worst Cooks* is always a fun way to kick off the New Year – and taking these social media stars offline and into the kitchen is hilarious to watch,” said Jane Latman, President, Home & Food Content and Streaming, Warner Bros. Discovery. “Darnell is the perfect new mentor to join Anne in boot camp – this season delivers laughs, drama and even culinary inspiration.”

The competitors are: comedian **Rich Aronovitch** @richisfunny (New York, New York); “QuarantTeaTime” actor **Michael Judson Berry** @mjudsonberry (Jersey City, New Jersey); **Tessica Brown**, known for her Gorilla Glue hair mishap, @im_d_ollady (Violet, Louisiana); flight attendant-by-day **David Chen** @davidchenofficial (Fort Lauderdale, Florida); singing sensation **Naje Elmore** @who_she_naje (Texarkana, Texas); K-drama and K-pop enthusiast **Tina Kim** @kdramalogic (Los Angeles, California); puppeteer **Adam Kreutinger** @adamkreutinger (Williamsville, New York); “Top 5 Hottest” trendsetter **Paris Nicholson** @parisnicholson (Miami, Florida); paleontologist TikTokker **Eliza Petersen** @lizemopetey (West Jordan, Utah); “Mr. Spooky” **Mitchell Ralston** @mrspooky13 (Huntingdon Beach, California); YouTuber **Sabrina Rios** @abelinasabrina (Los Angeles, California) and **Nick Trawick**, known for his TikTok character “Kleptora,” @nicktrawick13 (Los Angeles, California).

In the supersized season premiere, Anne and Darnell welcome the twelve social media-savvy, but culinary challenged recruits to boot camp. Before picking teams, Anne and Darnell kick off the competition by having the recruits make their baseline signature dish to show off their skills, or lack thereof, in the kitchen. Then in the main dish challenge, the recruits learn a unique way to cook chicken – under a brick! After assessing everyone’s skills, teams are chosen and the competition heats up leading into weekly eliminations. In upcoming episodes, boot camp is transformed into ancient Greece for souvlaki and grilled octopus challenges; culinary, physical and mental skills are put to the test in a Survivor-inspired contest and fan-favorite recruits **Marti Cummings** and **Peachez Iman-Cummings** return. In the finale on Sunday, February 5th at 8pm ET/PT, the two most improved recruits put their culinary skills to the test and serve a three-course restaurant quality meal to a panel of food experts. After a blind taste test, judges **Karen Akunowicz**, **Kalen Allen** and **Leah Cohen** decide who wins \$25,000 and bragging rights for their team leader.

Fans can get to know the recruits and get an extended look at Anne and Darnell’s boot camp demos at [FoodNetwork.com/WorstCooks](https://www.foodnetwork.com/WorstCooks). Follow along with the competition on social media and learn the basics of cooking in boot camp using #WorstCooks.

Worst Cooks in America is produced by Objective Media Group America, an All3 Media America company.

###

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



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

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 Warner Bros. Discovery (NASDAQ: WBD), a leading global media and entertainment company that creates and distributes the world's most differentiated and complete portfolio of content and brands across television, film and streaming. Available in more than 220 countries and territories and 50 languages, Warner Bros. Discovery inspires, informs and entertains audiences worldwide through its iconic brands and products which also include: Discovery Channel, discovery+, CNN, DC, Eurosport, HBO, HBO Max, HGTV, OWN, Investigation Discovery, TLC, Magnolia Network, TNT, TBS, truTV, Travel Channel, MotorTrend, Animal Planet, Science Channel, Warner Bros. Pictures, Warner Bros. Television, Warner Bros. Games, New Line Cinema, Cartoon Network, Adult Swim, Turner Classic Movies, Discovery en Español, Hogar de HGTV and others. For more information, please visit www.wbd.com.

About discovery+

[discovery+](#) is the definitive non-fiction, real life subscription streaming service from Warner Bros. Discovery. With the largest-ever content offering at launch, discovery+ features a wide range of exclusive, original series across popular passion verticals including lifestyle and relationships; home and food; true crime; paranormal; adventure and natural history; as well as science, tech and the environment, and a slate of high-quality documentaries. For more, visit discoveryplus.com, or find the discovery+ app on most mobile and connected TV devices.