



## **ALL-STAR ACADEMY** *Episode Descriptions (2016)*

### **Premiering Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10pm (all times ET/PT) - SEASON PREMIERE**

“First Day of School”

*All-Star Academy's* first day kicks off with nine home cooks entering the Academy Kitchen, where they meet mentors **Alex Guarnaschelli, Robert Irvine, Curtis Stone** and **Andrew Zimmern**. The cooks are put to the test preparing a dish using the contents of a lunchbox: ham slices, an apple, American cheese and milk. The mentors taste and rank the dishes in order, and the cook ranking last is eliminated. The remaining eight cooks choose their mentor based on their ranking. Next, the mentors face off to compete for a Save Card, which they can use to save one of their cooks from potential elimination in a future episode. Guest professor **Carla Hall** tastes and chooses the winner.

### **Premiering Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 9pm**

“Geography”

The home cooks enter to meet the week's guest professors **Debi Mazar** and **Aarón Sánchez**, and learn the subject is geography. For their group test, they must compete in a tag team challenge combining the cooking styles that represent where they are from. The two teams with the least successful dishes move on to an elimination challenge using ingredients from three of the most popular cuisines in the world: Italian, Mexican and Thai and one home cook leaves the Academy.

### **Premiering Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 9pm**

“Art”

Guest professor **Duff Goldman** joins the Academy for an art lesson, and the mentors, with their teams, face off in two simultaneous battles featuring desserts of different colors. The bottom two teams go into the elimination test for another dessert challenge where they must create a structural dish using chocolate and incorporate a circle, square and triangle on the plate. Another home cook is sent home and six remain.

### **Premiering Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 9pm**

“Math”

**Katie Lee** and **Jeff Mauro** are the week's guest math professors, and the group test is a numbers game: the home cooks are paired up in two groups of three to create an appetizer trio featuring one main ingredient. The trio that is sent to the elimination test must create a dish using only seven ingredients, but before the cook begins the mentors get to add one more ingredient to the opposing teams dish. The least successful home cook is eliminated.

### **Premiering Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 9pm**

“Snack Time”

Snack time guest professors **Scott Conant** and **Geoffrey Zakarian** mix things up and challenge the mentors to create a gourmet dish featuring a popular snack food like trail mix, cheese and crackers, chips and salsa or veggies and dip. The stakes are high for this challenge: the winning mentor gets to bring back any eliminated contestant to add to their team. After a home cook has returned to the game, all five contestants must use pretzels to create a gourmet dish and someone is sent packing.

### **Premiering Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 9pm**

“Science”

Science is the lesson of the day, and guest professor **Adam Richman** joins the Academy to dissect some iconic dishes and challenge the home cooks to use those ingredients in a new way. He throws the mentors a curveball and tests them on their teaching skills by switching around the teams. The remaining cooks face off creating dishes featuring the four classical elements: earth, air, fire and water.

### **Premiering Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9pm**

“Literature”

Guest professors **Richard Blais** and **Haylie Duff** put the cooks through three rounds of a literature-inspired “Win and You're In” game and each round's winning cook automatically advances to the finale. In round one, they make a dish inspired by a genre of literature: romance, horror, science fiction and fairy tale. For round two, they create dishes with assigned nouns,

adjectives and verbs. Finally, round three is pass or fail: the remaining cooks must make a dish featuring ingredients from the pantry that start with a “p” or “P” and the top contenders head into the finale.

**Premiering Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9pm**

“History”

A surprise guest professor and tests the cooks on the history of food. Round one is for the mentors, who will be cooking off for an advantage in the next round, and they create an updated version of the humble meatloaf. The home cooks then must recreate a dish revisiting the ingredients from their first day of school lunch box, with only the winning mentor’s contestant receiving upscale options in a golden lunch box. In the final round, the remaining cooks must create the best dish of their lives and one cook is named winner and receives \$50,000.

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