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## DOUBLE THE EPISODES, DOUBLE THE SURPRISES ON THE SECOND SEASON OF *COOKS VS. CONS*

Geoffrey Zakarian Returns to Host 12 New Episodes of this Suspenseful Culinary Competition  
Where Professional Chefs and Amateur Cooks Face-Off

*Series Premieres Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10pm ET/PT on Food Network*

**NEW YORK – June 28, 2016 – Geoffrey Zakarian** is back to host the deceptive and suspenseful series, *Cooks vs. Cons*, where amateur cooks go head-to-head against professional chefs while concealing their true identities, adding to the mystery of this culinary competition! Each episode the contestants battle it out in two rounds of timed challenges to create delicious restaurant quality dishes using a secret ingredient. The pressure is on as a rotating panel of judges, including **Richard Blais, Anne Burrell, Josh Capon, Monti Carlo, Scott Conant, Alex Guarnaschelli, Katie Lee, Marc Murphy, Daphne Oz, Marcus Samuelsson**, and more, decide who is a novice in the kitchen and whose cooking skills have been seasoned to perfection. Tune in to Food Network on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10pm to see if you can figure out who's who before the final reveal!

"Viewers were captivated as they played along with the judges to figure out who was the professional chef and who was the home cook," said Didi O'Hearn, Senior Vice President Programming, Food Network & Cooking Channel. "Now audiences will be on the edge of their seats as they share in even more of the fun and mystery with twice as many episodes this season."

On the season premiere, the four contestants rush against the clock in two rounds of challenges, but as a surprising twist, they must incorporate condiments into a lip-smacking lasagna - a difficult task for any trained culinary professional. To make it even harder, the judging panel will be watching every step in the kitchen to spot any novice moves. The cook whose dish does not make the cut will be eliminated. Then, the three remaining contestants will battle it out in a final round, where they must make a delicious dish, using a new secret ingredient - donuts. The winner will be determined based on taste and presentation, and only after the decision has been made will the contestants reveal their true identities. If a professional's dish is best they will take home a prize of \$10,000, but if an amateur can beat the odds and the competition, they are rewarded with an even bigger prize of \$15,000!

Fans can catch highlights from the show at [FoodNetwork.com/CooksVsCons](http://FoodNetwork.com/CooksVsCons), and they can take a quiz to find out if they have what it takes to pose as a pro chef and they can share the results on Twitter using #CooksVsCons.

*Cooks vs. Cons* is produced by Cakehouse Media.

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**FOOD NETWORK** ([www.foodnetwork.com](http://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 more than 100 million U.S. households and up to 35 million unique web users monthly. Since launching in 2009, Food Network Magazine's rate base has grown 13 times and is now the third largest monthly magazine on the newsstand, with over 12.4 million readers. Headquartered in New York, Food Network has a growing international presence with programming in more than 150 countries, including 24-hour networks in the United Kingdom, Asia, and the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region. Scripps Networks Interactive (NASDAQ: SNI), which also owns and operates Cooking Channel ([www.cookingchanneltv.com](http://www.cookingchanneltv.com)), HGTV ([www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com)), DIY Network ([www.diynetwork.com](http://www.diynetwork.com)), Travel Channel ([www.travelchannel.com](http://www.travelchannel.com)) and Great American Country ([www.gactv.com](http://www.gactv.com)), is the manager and general partner.