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WORST COOKS IN AMERICA: CELEBRITY EDITION **Contestant Bios**

MINDY COHN

Mindy Cohn made her acting debut as the witty, precious Eastland Academy student Natalie Green in the hit comedy series *The Facts of Life*. She was discovered while attending Westlake School for Girls in Bel Air, California, when actress Charlotte Rae and producer Norman Lear came to the school to authenticate scripts for their new show. Ms. Rae was so taken with the vivacious eighth grader she convinced producers to create a role for her. Mindy remained on the show for all nine seasons, also traveling to Paris and Australia with her co-stars to produce two successful television movies based on the series. Concurrently, with her role in *Facts*, Mindy played "Rose Jenko" in Fox's *21 Jump Street*. Other notable television appearances included *Diff'rent Strokes*, *Double Trouble*, *Charles in Charge*, *Dream On* and *Suddenly Susan*. In 1983, Mindy appeared in her first professional stage performance in *Table Settings*, written and directed by James Lapine and filmed for HBO Television. The illustrious cast included Eileen Heckart, Stockard Channing, Robert Klein, Peter Riegart, and Dinah Manoff. She went on to make her feature film debut in *The Boy Who Could Fly*, which co-starred Colleen Dewhurst, Fred Gwynne and Fred Savage. Mindy took a hiatus from her career to attend university, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Cultural Anthropology and a Masters in Education. During this time, she studied improvisation and scene work with Gary Austin and Larry Moss. She continues to study with Mr. Moss and also at the BGB Studio with Risa Bramon-Garcia. In 1993, Mindy received a Dramalogue Award for her performance in a production of *Catholic School Girls* at the Globe Playhouse in Los Angeles. The following year, she returned to television as "Mo Tucker" in the NBC series *The Second Half*, starring John Mendoza, Wayne Knight and Jessica Lundy. Mindy starred on the WB sitcom *The Help* alongside Antonio Sabato, Jr. and Tori Spelling. She also starred in the pilot *Virtually Casey* for the Disney Channel and continues her long standing gig with Warner Brothers as the voice of "Velma" for all animated projects in the *Scooby Doo* franchise, for which she was nominated for a Daytime Emmy award. While continuing to have a successful voice over career, she has starred feature films *Under the Gun*, *Alone with a Stranger*, *Swing*, *I Heart Huckabees*, the independent feature *Third Wish* working alongside Betty White and the Daniel Waters feature *Sex & Death 101* opposite Simon Baker and Winona Ryder. She was the lead in the indie feature *Violet Tendancies* and had a recurring role in ABC Family's *Secret Life of the American Teenager*. She most recently has been performing on stage in NYC and LA with the show *Celebrity Autobiography*. Mindy lives in New York and Los Angeles. She is "thrilled and tickled" to be one of the newest members of Chalk Repertory Company.

MATT DALLAS

Matt Dallas starred as the title character on the hit ABC Family series *Kyle XY*. He can also be seen on shows such as ABC Family/Freeform's sitcom *Baby Daddy*, HBO's *Entourage* and ABC's dramedy *Eastwick*. On the silver screen, Matt stars in the upcoming drama *Alaska Is A Drag* about a drag queen that takes up boxing to survive rural Alaska and in the indie-thriller *Tell Me Your Name* with Oscar nominated actor Bruce Davidson. His most recent project is his YouTube channel *Matt and Blue* that he produces with his husband. It follows their lives as new dads as well as taking on social exploration in our modern world.

TOMMY DAVIDSON

Tommy Davidson's exceptional range, from stand-up comedy and acting to versatile music accomplishments, has earned him a reputation as an extraordinary performer. Best known as one of the stars of the hit television show *In Living Color*, his visibility has allowed him to become a household name known for his innovative talent. Tommy started his career as a standup comedian in Washington DC, earning an ardent following with relentless work in the leading comedy clubs. Spotted by major concert promoters, he was first booked as the opening act for Patti LaBelle, Kenny G and Luther Vandross. It wasn't long before he came to Hollywood and was headlining the biggest rooms and met Robert Townsend. This led to his first national television appearance with a starring role in *Partners in Crime* and was the conduit to Keenan Ivory Wayans, who proved instrumental in Tommy's career by offering him an opportunity to audition. Tommy and Jamie Foxx, Jim Carrey, Damon Wayans and David Alan Grier -- the uniquely talented cast of the most adventurous primetime variety show on television, *In Living Color* (1990), made TV history. The iconic sketch show was recently honored with the "Groundbreaking Award" by TV Land in a star-studded salute guided by Whoopi Goldberg and this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. Tommy's film debut started opposite Halle Berry in *Strictly Business*. A range of feature film roles from Spike Lee's *Bamboozled*, where he received acclaim and praise for his turn as "Womack/Sleep 'N Eats" to *Juwanna Mann* (Morgan Creek Productions) and the pivotal cameo in Jim Carrey's *Ace Ventura II: When Nature Calls*, followed. He starred in 2011's landmark, award-winning documentary, *I Am Comic*, opposite Tim Allen, Lewis Black, Sarah Silverman, Carlos Mencia, Jeff Foxworthy and Kathy Griffin. Davidson's hilarious impressions of Sammy Davis Jr., Michael Jackson and other icons have become infamous. His visibility on *In Living Color* led to three Showtime specials: *On Strength of New York*, *Illin' in Philly* and *Takin' it to DC*. Tommy is the host and star of Showtime's *Chocolate Sundaes* special (eOne) which garnered rave reviews upon premiere and remains one of eOne Film's best sellers. His elasticity as a performer who delivers on the small screen ranges from his guest starring role in this year's BET hit, *Real Husbands of Hollywood*, opposite Kevin Hart and Nick Cannon and as the focus of *Celebrity Wife Swap*'s 2015 season finale. As a voice artist, America has fallen in love with Tommy as the star of Will Smith's animated series, *Youngin's*, Disney's animated series, *The Proud Family* and Michael Jai White in the critically-lauded spoof comedy, *Black Dynamite* (Turner Network's Adult Swim) as the character "Cream Corn." He recently completed a starring role in *Sharknado 4* opposite Ian Ziering and Tara Reid on SyFy. Tommy will host a new series for CW, *Vacation Creation*, set to premiere at the end of 2016. His newest business venture, Tongue Tied by Tommy Davidson, quintessential men's ties and suit accessories, launched June 2016 and has been featured on a number of tv shows and in major magazines.



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BARBARA EDEN

Barbara Eden is one of America's most endearing and enduring stars. Her iconic *I Dream of Jeannie* NBC series ran on the network for five seasons and became an instant hit (139 episodes). It has been airing continuously on cable and in syndication in the United States and abroad for more than five decades. Barbara's memoir "Jeannie Out of the Bottle" debuted on the New York Times Best Seller List. The autobiography chronicles Barbara's colorful life and remarkable Hollywood career that spans more than five decades. Her bestseller was published by Crown Archetype, a division of Random House. Barbara is one of Hollywood's busiest actresses, appearing in a kaleidoscope of professional, charitable and personal activities. Film, television, theatre and her one-woman show, *On the Magic Carpet with Barbara Eden*, keep her busy with personal appearances, theatre productions, numerous charitable events and home life. Most recently, Nickelodeon created the special new character "Empress Caliana" for Barbara for the network's popular animated series *Shimmer & Shine*. Among her many charitable activities are a special benefit appearance on NYFW for the AHA; Macy's *Red Dress Collection Runway Show*, which brings awareness and raises money for Women's Heart Disease; and co-hosting of the fabulous 21st Annual Life Ball Charity Gala benefiting AIDS research in Vienna, Austria with special guests Elton John, Fergie, and former President Bill Clinton. In September 2015, Barbara celebrated the 50th anniversary of her iconic show, *I Dream of Jeannie*. She hosted a back-to-back 50-episode special on Antenna TV, as well as made her rounds on the talk show circuit which included a special *I Dream of Jeannie* tribute and interview on *Today*. Barbara starred in the Hallmark Television special *Always and Forever* and was a recurring guest-star in Lifetime's long running series *Army Wives*. On stage, Barbara headlined in Neil Simon's female version of *The Odd Couple* in a three-year SRO 25-city tour. Other stage appearances include a special 10 week engagement at the celebrated New Theatre in Kansas City in the comedy hit *Social Security*, directed by Mike Nichols in the role created on Broadway by Oscar-winner Olympia Dukakis. In addition to her touring, Barbara has been busy co-starring in the celebrated two character play, *Love Letters* with Emmy & Tony Award winning actor Hal Linden. During her illustrious career, Barbara has starred in 25 feature films, five network TV series, 19 top-rated network made-for-television movies and headlined at many of the major hotel resorts and casinos including MGM Grand, Caesar's Palace, Riviera, Frontier and Landmark Hotels and Casinos. Barbara made her television debut while a contract player at the studio starring in 20th Century Fox's hit series *How to Marry a Millionaire* in the role Marilyn Monroe created in the motion picture version. She also starred in the hit movie *Harper Valley PTA*, which subsequently became a popular television series. Other series included *Brand New Life* with Don Murray, *Liz Stonestreet* and television movie *Visions of Murder*. People Magazine named Barbara "One of America's 200 Greatest Pop Icons of the 20th Century." She has also been honored with a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, was named one of TV Guide's Most Popular Comedy Stars and has received the Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Broadcasters Hall of Fame and TV Land. When there's time in her crowded schedule, she works actively on behalf of numerous charities including The Trail of Painted Ponies Breast Cancer Research, American Cancer Society, The Wellness Community, Make-A-Wish Foundation, March of Dimes, The American Heart Association, Save the Children and Childhelp USA. Born in Tucson, AZ and raised in San Francisco, Barbara resides with her architect/real estate developer husband Jon Eicholtz in the Benedict Canyon area of Beverly Hills with their dog, Djinn-Djinn, an adorable, chocolate brown, pure-bred Labradoodle.

JOHN HENSON

An actor, writer, host and producer of over 1,400 hours of television, John Henson completed seven seasons as co-host and producer of ABC's smash summer hit, "Wipeout." The reality show is a three-time winner of the Kids Choice Award for Best Reality Show, the winner of the Teen Choice Award for Choice Summer TV Show and a top co-viewing show on television with adults and children. A veteran of more than 20 years on television, John has established himself as one of entertainment's most sought-after players. Having recently expanded his production company, he is set to co-produce the true-crime TV drama *Making Jack Falcone*, based on the New York Times best-selling book by Joaquin "Jack" Garcia. Produced with Double Feature Films, the project will be executive produced by Academy Award and Emmy Award-winner, Steven Soderbergh. John began his professional career as a stand-up comedian, touring the country for many years before gaining audience attention and critical acclaim when he was selected to replace Greg Kinnear as host of E! Entertainment's Emmy Award-winning series *Talk Soup*. It was this role as host, writer and co-executive producer of *Talk Soup* that garnered him a cult following, in addition to three Emmy Award nominations. John's subsequent projects have included the hour-long weekly series *The John Henson Project*, which he created for Spike TV, as well as TV Guide Network's longest running series *Watch This*, where he served as host, writer and executive producer. In 2006, he hosted the Creative Arts Technical Emmys opposite Meredith Vieira. In spring 2010, he served as celebrity guest host on the game show sensation *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. He also appears on truTV, hosting *Funniest Commercials* specials. As a pop culture analyst, Henson has appeared on NBC, CNN and MSNBC, among other networks. Most recently, he served as a recurring guest host on the popular TMZ entertainment news show. His acting credits of late include the role of Darren on FX's *Anger Management* and a recurring guest star role as the husband of his real-life wife, comedian Jill Benjamin, playing the parents of Austin Moon on Disney's hit show *Austin & Ally*. He was also seen in a recurring role on NBC's *My Name is Earl*. Henson continues to do stand-up comedy around the country, as well as being a regular at The Laugh Factory and The Improv in Los Angeles. As a writer, he has contributed to US Weekly, TV Guide and George Magazine. In his personal life, Henson is dedicated to several children's charities, working regularly with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Children's Institute, Inc. In the last four years, Henson has helped raise over \$2,000,000 for Casa Hogar, an orphanage in Cabo San Lucas that he and his wife Jill support. John and Jill also served on the board of the Philanthropic Society of Los Angeles and even their golden retriever, George, was a certified therapy dog, offering loving companionship to the patients of senior care facilities and children's hospitals. He currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife, son and daughter.

LONI LOVE



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Loni Love is in demand and loving it. She is a co-host of the hit daytime talker *The Real*, the nationally syndicated show airs on the FOX affiliates and rebroadcasts in primetime on cable network BET. The show was recently renewed for two more years through the 2017/2018 season, and has been nominated for four Emmy Awards including: Outstanding Talk Show, Outstanding Hair, Outstanding Makeup and Outstanding Entertainment Talk Show Hosts. *The Real* has been touted by the *New York Post* as "fun, funny, involved in life, outrageous by nature, warm and, most of all, real." Loni currently co-hosts the *Café Mocha* radio show with rapper MC Lyte. They've interviewed President Obama and the First Lady, as well as superstars like John Legend, Toni Braxton among many others. *Café Mocha* is the only nationally syndicated show of its kind that was created exclusively by and for women of color. The nationally syndicated show airs on over 40 stations across the country including SiriusXM Channel 141. Additionally, Loni has guest hosted *Fashion Police* and has been a correspondent for *Entertainment Tonight* and *E!* as well as regular appearances spinning tunes as the house DJ on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. Along with her work on television, Loni can be seen in several movies, including the successful *Paul Blart Mall Cop 2* opposite Kevin James, *Soul Plane* with Kevin Hart and the *Bad Ass* franchise with Danny Glover and Danny Trejo. In addition, Loni is the subject of the documentary *Being Loni Love*, which traces Loni's life story from her early days as a latchkey daughter growing up in Detroit's Brewster- Douglas housing projects to national stand up comedienne, tv and movie star.

KENYA MOORE

Kenya Moore, Miss "Gone With The Wind Fabulous" herself, is an American actress, model, producer, author, director, television personality, and entrepreneur. She currently stars in the Bravo series *The Real Housewives of Atlanta* and was a member of the cast of *The Celebrity Apprentice* in 2015. Originally from Detroit, the former psychology major left Michigan with fierce drive and determination to build her own unique brand. Well-known for being crowned Miss USA, Kenya has also acted alongside many "A-list" celebrities. As her star rises so does her business ventures such as her production company, Moore Vision Media, as well the launch of her newest business venture, Kenya Moore Hair Care. Aside from being a pop-culture phenomenon and serious business woman, Kenya enjoys writing, traveling, hitting the gym, and never passes up an opportunity to speak her mind or "Twirl!"

MIKE "THE SITUATION" SORRENTINO

Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino rose to fame as a cast member of MTV's hit show *Jersey Shore*. Since joining *Jersey Shore*, Mike has become a worldwide pop and cultural icon, exemplified by the show's stature as one of television's most viewed programs. Mike was also a contestant on Season 11 of *Dancing with the Stars* and completed a season of *Celebrity Big Brother* (UK), where he was a finalist. Mike has a loving and caring family alongside his successful television career. Always a kindhearted person who prided himself on being healthy, he soon entered the world of addiction after injuring his back on *Dancing with the Stars*. Fortunately, with the support of his family and friends, he bravely sought the help he needed and is now enjoying the road to recovery. Now a successful entrepreneur and business owner, Mike shares his personal story with colleges, associations, health groups and his many fans around the world in order to make a difference with anyone who struggles with addiction. Mike and his family did their first show *The Sorrentinos* together on TVGN, and Mike and his fiancée Lauren appeared on WE's *Marriage Bootcamp* and *Say Yes to the Dress*.

NICOLE SULLIVAN

As a native New Yorker, Nicole has been acting since she was seven years old. She attended Northwestern University, where she spent four years studying the classics, including Shakespeare and Chekhov. After graduating on the Dean's List, she joined the Greenwich Shakespeare Company. In 1995, Sullivan joined the original cast of Fox smash hit *MADtv* as their youngest cast member. In the six years she worked on the Fox late night sketch comedy show, she played numerous memorable characters such as the Vancome Lady, Antonia, and Darlene McBride; and was noticed for her sometimes scathing impersonations of celebrities like Britney Spears and Meg Ryan. After *MAD*, she joined the cast of *King of Queens* as Holly the dog-walker for five years. Nicole has also been seen on *Scrubs*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Boston Legal*, *Monk*, *My Boys*, *Whitney*, *The Middle*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Black-ish* and recurring on *Cougar Town*, playing Courtney Cox's therapist. Nicole played Rita on 40 episodes of Lifetime's *Rita Rocks* and was also a series regular on shows such as *Hot Properties*, *Raines*, *Shit My Dad Says* and Nick at Night's *Wendell & Vinnie*. As a comedic voice actor, Nicole has lent her voice to numerous animated feature hits such as *The Ant Bully*, and *Meet the Robinsons* and to a number of popular animated television shows, among them *Kim Possible*, *Family Guy*, *Buzz Lightyear of Star Command*, Netflix's *BoJack Horseman* and the Emmy award winning *Penguins of Madagascar*. Nicole is currently recurring on the ABC hit *Black-ish*.

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