



Press Contact: Julie Chudow
Phone: 646-638-7636; E: jchudow@foodnetwork.com
*High-res images and clips available upon request

SPELLBINDING SWEETS FILL THE NEW SEASON OF HALLOWEEN BAKING CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTED BY COMEDIAN JOHN HENSON

New Season Premieres Monday, September 25th at 9pm ET/PT on Food Network

New York – August 22, 2017 – A new batch of eight terrifyingly-talented bakers from across the country compete to create haunting and spooky sweets on the new season of *Halloween Baking Championship*, premiering Monday, September 25th at 9:00pm ET/PT. Comedian **John Henson** hosts, as the contestants' baking abilities and imaginations are put to the test in two rounds of difficult confectionary challenges, from trick-or-treat candy-filled cookies to *scream puffs* (a scary take on the traditional cream puff), and from glow-in-the-dark desserts to Jack-O-Lantern Cakes. The one who survives the twists of the competition and whose sweets put a spell on judges **Carla Hall**, **Lorraine Pascale**, and **Zac Young**, will take home the grand prize of \$25,000 and the title of *Halloween Baking Champion!*

"Audiences can expect dreadfully delicious new challenges that make the spine-chilling spirit of the holiday come to life on the return of *Halloween Baking Championship*," said Courtney White, SVP Programming, Scripps Networks Interactive. "Adding to the enchantment is the wicked wit of host John Henson and the contestants' chilling confectionary creations as the competition unfolds."

Halloween Baking Championship contestants include: **Jasmin Bell** (Seattle, WA), **Cliff Butler** (Austin, TX), **Tyler Davis** (St. Louis, MO), **Jonathan Elias** (Birmingham, MI), **Andrea Kratville** (Sonora, CA), **Dina Melendez-Bonnet** (Brooklyn, NY), **Jessica Scott** (San Diego, CA), **Ray Vizcaino** (San Diego, CA).

In each of the six hour-long episodes, the contestants will need to cause quite a fright with freaky, yet tasty, Halloween desserts. On the first episode, the bakers must show off their decorating skills in the pre-heat challenge as they make a dozen Halloween-themed cookies from scratch, such as ghosts, skulls, coffins, spider webs and more. But, the twist is that the bakers must stuff them with traditional trick-or-treat candies. One contestant will win a special advantage in the main heat challenge, where they need to make a sublime dessert with ooey-goey fruit-flavored slime that oozes out when cut. A surprising twist in the challenge will be hard to swallow for one contestant who will be sent to the graveyard of the competition, never to return. The frightful fun continues all season long with creepy challenges and bewitching baked goods that will leave audiences howling for more!

Fans can find photo galleries of the spookiest sweets from the competition, view the judges' most elaborate costumes and catch video highlights of the challenges at FoodNetwork.com/HalloweenBakingChampionship. Plus, they can join the baking banter on Twitter using #HalloweenBakingChampionship.

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