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\*High-res images, show footage, and interviews available upon request.

## ***Rachael vs. Guy: Celebrity Cook-Off*** **Contestant Biographies**

### **AARON CARTER**

Aaron Carter began his music career at age seven, singing lead for the band Dead End. Two years later he made his first solo appearance when he was nine, opening for the Backstreet Boys at their concert in Berlin, Germany, in March 1997. The performance was followed by a record contract and, in the fall of 1997, Aaron Carter released his first hit single, "Crush On You". His first full-length album "*Aaron Carter*" (December 1997) achieved gold status worldwide including countries Norway, Spain, Denmark, Canada and Germany. On May 18, 1998, Carter released the EP "*Let The Music Heal Your Soul*", a fund-raising project that featured vocals by Carter, \*NSYNC, Backstreet Boys, and The Moffatts amongst others. Now signed to JIVE Records, Aaron's sophomore album, "*Aaron's Party*", was released in the United States on September 26, 2000, and achieved triple-platinum status/certification. All of this before he was a teenager.

Aaron has won multiple awards over his 14 year career including TEEN Choice Awards, Kids Choice Awards, and RTL Young Artist of the Year Award. In addition to music he has also established himself as an Actor in Film, Television and on Broadway. On August 17, 2009 the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) announced that Carter would be joining the cast for season 9 of their primetime reality series, "*Dancing With The Stars*". Aaron and his dance partner Karina Smirnoff became an early fan favorite and finished 5th place in the competition. Aaron is currently on Broadway, entertaining various film and television offers all while in the studio working on new music and his new album. You can learn more about Aaron at [www.aaroncarterworldwide.com](http://www.aaroncarterworldwide.com)

#### Charity

Kids Beating Cancer

### **ALYSSA CAMPANELLA**

On June 19, 2011 fiery redhead Alyssa Campanella captured the crown at the 2011 MISS USA® Pageant at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Alyssa was raised in Manalapan, New Jersey, and at the age of six caught the "acting bug" when she landed a role in a theater show titled "*The Night We Were Trapped at FAO Schwarz*". This role, along with living so close to Manhattan, sparked her interest in the modeling and the entertainment industry. Active in school plays and dedicated to her studies, she graduated with honors from Freehold Township High School a year early after receiving a scholarship to the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts in Manhattan, where she further trained in acting for film and television.

In 2006, Alyssa decided to give pageants a try and was crowned Miss New Jersey Teen USA 2007. She went on to represent New Jersey at the 2007 MISS TEEN USA® Pageant placing 1st runner up. The title of Miss New Jersey Teen USA was rewarding for Alyssa, as the exposure helped launch her modeling career. She has modeled for numerous fashion designers, major retail stores and book covers for romance and thriller novels, and was recently featured on the movie poster for "*Get Him to the Greek*." In May 2010, Alyssa left the East Coast and moved to Los Angeles to continue her pursuit of a career in acting and modeling. She decided to compete in the 2011 MISS CALIFORNIA USA® Pageant and won the crown on November 21, 2010. During her tenure as Miss California USA, she continued her career in the entertainment industry, but also took time out to volunteer with organizations including UNICEF, Ronald McDonald House and Go Red for Women. As Miss USA, Alyssa will serve as a spokeswoman for breast and ovarian cancer education, research and legislation - a platform that is close to her heart as it has personally affected a member of her family. She will travel nationwide as an advocate for organizations such as Susan G. Komen for the Cure and Gilda's Club, and will support the troops through involvement with the USO.

#### Charity

Susan G. Komen For the Cure

## CHEECH MARIN

Cheech Marin is best known as one half of the hilariously irreverent, satirical, counter-culture, no-holds barred duo of Cheech and Chong. Together the duo made eight films. As an actor, Cheech has since appeared in more than twenty films, including *"Tin Cup"*, *"Spy Kids"*, and *"Once Upon A Time In Mexico"*. Marin was seen last year in the wickedly funny Robert Rodriguez film *"Machete"*. He also voiced the animated feature films *"Hoodwinked Too!"*, *"Cars 2"*, and the re-release of *"Lion King 3D"*.

His television credits include co-starring with Don Johnson in the popular CBS drama *"Nash Bridges"*, a recurring role on the hit series *"Lost"*, and guest appearances on *"Grey's Anatomy"*. He returned to ABC with a recurring role on the Shondra Rhimes produced series *"Off the Map"*. He will next appear in the untitled sitcom for CBS starring Rob Schneider. Cheech is also well known for his noted Chicano art collection and is the author of three children's books and a publication of comedic essays for adults.

### Charity

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

## COOLIO

Coolio began rapping from a young age and performed in many local Los Angeles rap contests as a youth. He recorded two singles in the late 80s, titled *"Watcha Gonna Do"* and *"You're Gonna Miss Me,"* and ended up joining the group WC and the Maad Circle in 1991. Three years later in 1994 Coolio signed to Tommy Boy Records and released his debut solo album, *"It Takes a Thief"*. The album contained the single *"Fantastic Voyage"* which became Coolio's breakout song. It peaked at #3 on the Billboard Hot 100, making it one of the biggest rap singles of the year. The album also contained a few minor hits in *"County Line"* and *"I Remember"*. Overall the album was very successful peaking at #8 on the Billboard Hot 200 and being certified Platinum.

After the success of his debut, Coolio became a legitimate rap star. In 1995 he made a song for the movie *"Dangerous Minds"*, and this song became *"Gangsta's Paradise"*. *"Gangsta's Paradise,"* which featured R&B singer L.V., would become one of the most successful rap songs of all-time, reaching #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 for 3 weeks. The album *"Gangsta's Paradise"* was released in 1995 and with the mega-hit was certified 2X Platinum by the RIAA. The album also contained two other major hits in *"1, 2, 3, 4 (Sumpin' New)"* and *"Too Hot"*. In 1996 Coolio had another top 40 hit with the song *"It's All the Way Live (Now)"* from the *"Eddie"* soundtrack. He was also featured on the song *"Hit 'em High"* from the soundtrack to the movie *"Space Jam"* with B-Real, Method Man, LL Cool J, and Busta Rhymes. Coolio performed the theme song for the 1996 television program *"Kenan & Kel"*, entitled *"Aw Here It Goes"*. Coolio also appeared in a one-time role as the host of a pleasure palace in *"Space: Above and Beyond"*. He was also featured in an episode of *"The Bill"*, as well as starring in episodes of *"Sabrina the Teenage Witch"* and *"The Nanny"* where he played the grandson of Ray Charles' character, Sammy.

### Charity

Music Saves Lives

## JOEY FATONE

Former \*NSYNC star and *"Dancing with the Stars"* contestant, Joey Fatone, is currently the voice of the widely successful re-launch of *"Family Feud"* with Steve Harvey. Fatone was the host of NBC's cirque competition series, *"Celebrity Circus"*. He also produced his first cable television series *"The Singing Office"* for TLC and co-hosted the show alongside Melanie Brown. He also served as host of NBC's international hit series *"The Singing Bee"*, and in late 2007 hosted the Australian version of the successful series. From 2008 to 2009, Fatone was featured as the lead red carpet host at all the major award shows for the TV Guide Network.

Born Joseph Anthony Fatone Jr., Fatone grew up in a family of performers. His father, Joe Sr. sang in the Brooklyn doo-wop group, the Orions. Fatone was always performing, and in his first acting gig at age seven, he starred with Robert DeNiro in the feature film *"Once Upon A Time in America"*. Fatone's other film credits include *"The Cooler"*, alongside Alec Baldwin and William H. Macy, *"Homie Spumoni"* with Whoopi Goldberg, Donald Faison and Jamie-Lynn Sigler, and *"My Big Fat Greek Wedding"*, which became the fifth-highest grossing film of 2002 in North America.

In 2004, Fatone starred as Seymour in the Broadway musical "*Little Shop of Horrors*." His other Broadway credits include the role of Mark Cohen in the hit Broadway musical "*Rent*."

Fatone and his wife, Kelly, currently reside in Orlando with their daughters, Briahna and Kloey. He remains actively involved with his charity, The Fatone Family Foundation, and works on different movie and television projects.

#### Charity

Fatone Family Foundation

### **LOU DIAMOND PHILLIPS**

Lou Diamond Phillips's versatility has earned him success in theater, television and feature film as well as directing, writing and producing. Phillips earned a Tony nomination for Best Actor for his performance as the King of Siam in the Broadway production of Roger & Hammerstein's "*The King and I*", which received six Tony nominations in all. His extensive theater credits also include "*A Hateful of Rain*", "*Whose Life is it Anyway?*", "*P.S. Your Cat is Dead*", "*The Lady's Not For Burning*", "*Doctor Faustus*" and "*Hamlet*". Phillips co-starred in Ed Zwick's critically acclaimed military drama, "*Courage Under Fire*" opposite Meg Ryan, Denzel Washington, and Matt Damon. His other film credits include "*Supernova*", in which he co-starred with Angela Bassett and James Spader, "*Picking Up the Pieces*", starring Woody Allen and Sharon Stone, "*Hangman*" with Mädchen Amick, "*A Better Way to Die*" with André Braugher, and "*Bats*" a thriller directed by Louis Morneau for Destination Films.

Phillips' Hollywood film debut was in the critically acclaimed box office hit "*La Bamba*" where he portrayed iconic rock star Richie Vallens. He followed that movie with a dramatic turn in "*Stand and Deliver*" for which he won the Independent Spirit Award for Best Supporting Actor and received a Best Supporting Actor Golden Globe nomination. He has also starred in such films as "*Young Guns I and II*", "*Disorganized Crime*", "*Renegades*", "*The First Power*", and "*Shadow of the Wolf*". He also wrote and starred in the Miramax release, "*Ambition*". Phillips made his directorial debut with "*Dangerous Touch*", a psychological thriller that he co-wrote. Born and raised in Arlington, Texas, he started acting in the sixth grade and became actively involved in Dallas/Fort Worth theatre and film scene.

#### Charity

No Kid Hungry

### **SUMMER SANDERS**

Summer Sanders pursues excellence in all facets of her life, be it in the swimming pool, in car pool, or in front of the camera. At the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Sanders emerged as the most decorated U.S. swimmer, winning four medals – two gold, a silver, and a bronze. Following retiring from swimming, Sanders pursued a career in television. From 1997 to 2005, Sanders appeared on a plethora of programs as correspondent, co-host, and host. Highlights include eight years co-hosting "*NBA Inside Stuff*" on NBC, becoming the first female game-show on Nickelodeon by hosting "*Figure It Out*", acting as a swimming corresponding for NBC during the 1996 and 2000 Olympics Games, being an Olympic correspondent for the "*Today Show*", and hosting Fox's entertaining sports shows "*The Sports List*". Sanders also worked as a sideline reporter for the NBA, WNBA, and US Open. In addition, Sanders is also a health and fitness advocate, producing articles and tips for various magazines and a prenatal workout DVD, as well as the author of "*Champions are Raised Not Born*." In her two years at Stanford University, Sanders compiled six individual NCAA titles and four relay championships, earned back-to-back NCAA Swimmer of the Year awards, and propelled Stanford to the 1992 National Championship.

Sanders took a brief hiatus from TV to become a loving wife and mother, she married Olympian and former U.S. Ski Team Alpine racer Erik Schlopy and has two children, Skye and Spider. She returned to TV in 2009, and has worked as a correspondent for "*Good Morning America*", "*The Rachael Ray Show*", NBC's Universal Sports Network and Yahoo! Sports, and appeared on NBC's "*Celebrity Apprentice*". She is a UNICEF and a Right to Play Ambassador.

#### Charity

Right to Play

## **TAYLOR DAYNE**

Taylor Dayne stands out as one of music's most dynamic artists. Her unique vocal style has earned her numerous best-selling gold and platinum albums, which produced seventeen Top 20 singles, among them number 1 hits such as *"Tell It To My Heart"*, *"Love Will Lead You Back"* & *"Prove Your Love"*. During the course of her career, she has sold more than 75 million albums and singles worldwide, garnered three GRAMMY nominations and appeared in many film, television and stage roles such as *"Love Affair"* & *"Cold Case"*. Taylor Dayne's brand new single *"Floor On Fire"* combines the iconic singer's big voice and the latest sounds to form an explosive blend. The song was written by Taylor Dayne, in conjunction with Swedish songwriters Niclas Kings and Ivar Lisinski, as well as Tania Doko from Australia. Hit producers such as The Thin Red Men, Marc Lime & K-Bastian or Zoned Out chipped in perfect mixes especially suitable for the European, British and international audiences.

In 2008, she came back with her album *"Satisfied"*, co-penning the songs with major platinum selling writers Mike Mangini (Baha Men, Digable Planets, O-Town, Bruce Hornsby, etc.), Peter Wade (Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna, Natasha Bedingfield etc.), the New Radical's Gregg Alexander and Rick Nowels (Stevie Nicks, Madonna, Nelly Furtado, Santana etc.). *"Satisfied"* enjoyed great success in the USA, immediately positioning its single *"Beautiful"* at Billboard's # 1 slot and producing two other top ten singles, *"Over My Head"* and *"My Heart Can Change"*. In 2009 Taylor Dayne contributed songs to the *"Sex And The City 2"* hit movie, and in 2010 she delivered a breathtaking spectacular in Cologne when she performed *"Facing A Miracle"*, the official anthem of the "Gay Games VIII. Cologne", live at the opening ceremony which ended in a five minute standing ovation.

### Charity

Cambodian Children's Fund

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