



## Host & Judges Bios

### ***Halloween Baking Championship***

#### **Jeff Dunham**

Comedian and ventriloquist Jeff Dunham is one of the world's most inventive entertainers. After graduating from Baylor University, he moved to Los Angeles and soon became a sensation on the national comedy club circuit, as well as a frequent guest comic on *The Tonight Show* and *Late Night with David Letterman*. Throughout the years, Dunham has had several record-breaking, self-produced comedy specials on Comedy Central including, *Arguing With Myself*, *Spark of Insanity*, *A Very Special Christmas Special*, *Controlled Chaos*, *Minding the Monsters*, and *All Over The Map*, which have been released on broadcast, DVD, and mobile platforms. In 2010, his limited series *The Jeff Dunham Show* premiered on the network, and later that year he published an autobiography entitled, *All By My Selves: Walter, Peanut, Achmed and Me*, which became a New York Times Best Seller. Dunham has also made many cameo appearances across television and film, from the Emmy Award-winning comedy series *30 Rock*, to *Dinner For Schmucks*, starring Steve Carrell and Paul Rudd. Most recently, his NBC primetime comedy special *Jeff Dunham: Unhinged in Hollywood*, chronicling two sold-out nights at Los Angeles' historic Dolby Theatre. Dunham continues selling out venues across the country for his *Perfectly Unbalanced* tour which runs through the end of 2016.

#### **Damiano Carrara**

Growing up in Italy, Damiano Carrara developed an interest in hospitality and culinary arts. He entered the industry as a bartender, where his passion grew as he mixed cocktails and entertained customers. Soon he began training professionally for flair bartending competitions around the world, winning multiple awards, prizes and accolades for his skills. After joining the Flair Bartenders' Association Carrara decided to move to America, where he continued working in restaurants as a bartender. Taking the opportunity to grow, he started managing the restaurant where he tended bar. After five years of hard work, Damiano and his brother decided to open a café of their own - Carrara Pastries. After gaining popularity and wide recognition in the kitchen, he decided to share his talents with a national audience as a competitor on the premiere season of Food Network's *Spring Baking Championship* and returned for an episode in the second season as a guest judge. Enjoying the thrill of culinary competitions, he also competed on *Cutthroat Kitchen* and was a finalist on the most recent season of *Food Network Star*.

#### **Carla Hall**

A native of Nashville, Tennessee, Carla Hall received a degree in Accounting from Howard University, but traveling through Europe awakened her passion for food, and inspired a new career path. Carla attended L'Academie de Cuisine in Maryland, where she completed her culinary training, going on to work as a Sous Chef at the Henley Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. She also served as Executive Chef at both The State Plaza Hotel and The Washington Club, and has taught classes at CulinAerie and her alma mater L'Academie de Cuisine. Her approach to cooking blends together her classic French training and Southern upbringing for a twist on traditional favorites. In addition to being a judge on *Halloween Baking Championship*, Carla is a co-host of ABC's daytime talk show, *The Chew*, and is best known as a competitor and fan favorite on Bravo's *Top Chef* and *Top Chef All Stars*. She is the owner of Carla Hall Petite Cookies, an artisan cookie company that specializes in creating sweet and savory "petite bites of love." In 2012 Carla released her debut cookbook, *Cooking with Love: Comfort Food That Hugs You*, and in 2014 released *Carla's Comfort Food: Favorite Dishes from Around the World*. In 2015, she opened her first restaurant Carla Hall's Southern Kitchen, a fast casual eatery featuring iconic Nashville classic dishes and family recipes. Carla lives in Washington, DC with her husband Matthew Lyons and stepson Noah.

### **Sandra Lee**

Sandra Lee is a multiple Emmy® Award-Winner, an internationally-acclaimed food and lifestyle expert, and contributor on *Good Morning America*. During her career, she has been the creator and host of numerous television series on Food Network, Cooking Channel, HGTV and Great American Country. She has written 27 books including a novel, *The Recipe Box* and a memoir, *Made From Scratch*. In addition she is known for her charitable work and was the recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award and the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor. She is one of three founding Board Members of UNICEF®'s Los Angeles chapter and was recently named a spokesperson for Stand Up To Cancer. For the last decade, Sandra has served as the national spokesperson for No Kid Hungry, and works nationally with Meals-on-Wheels, Food Banks across America, The Elton John Aids Foundation, God's Love We Deliver and sister affiliate Project Angel Food, as well as The Central Park Conservancy. In 2015, after she was diagnosed with early stage breast cancer and shared the news of her double mastectomy, Sandra was recognized by the Congressional Families Cancer Prevention Program for sharing her message across her personal and professional platforms. Sandra was honored on Capitol Hill with the Excellence in Cancer Awareness Award, and this year received the Spirit of Life Award from City of Hope.

### ***Kids Halloween Baking Championship***

### **Duff Goldman**

Duff Goldman graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with degrees in history and philosophy. He then went on to study at the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone, and from there went on to work at several acclaimed culinary destinations, including French Laundry, Vail Cascade Hotel, and Todd English's Olives before returning to Baltimore in 2000 to become a personal chef. In March 2002, he opened Charm City Cakes, and it soon became a household name on the hit Food Network show *Ace of Cakes*, which aired for 10 seasons. Duff is the co-host of *Kids Baking Championship* and the forthcoming *Worst Bakers in America*, and serves as a judge on Food Network's *Holiday Baking Championship* and *Spring Baking Championship*. In 2011, Duff was nominated for two James Beard Foundation awards for Best TV Food Personality/Host and Best Television Program. He published his first cookbook book in 2015 entitled, *Duff Bakes: Think and Bake Like a Pro at Home*. In addition to owning and operating Charm City Cakes, Charm City Cakes West and Duff's Cake Mix, Duff is also a sculptor, artist, and musician, and has an affinity for wearing his signature hockey jerseys.

### **Alison Sweeney**

Alison Sweeney is an actress, television host, producer, director and author who constantly inspires others with her balance of career and focus on family. No stranger to the camera, Sweeney began her acting at age 4 and at age 16, she joined the cast of *Days of Our Lives* to play the role of Sami Brady for which she has earned an Emmy nomination for Best Lead Actress. Sweeney also hosted 13 seasons of *The Biggest Loser*, as well as numerous live television specials and made many guest starring appearances on popular television series. She is an ambassador for Stand Up To Cancer, the Fitness Ambassador for City of Hope, and a member of the Entertainment Council for Feeding America. Sweeney resides in Los Angeles with her husband and their son and daughter.

###