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WORST COOKS IN AMERICA: CELEBRITY EDITION **Contestant Bios (2017)**

NORA DUNN

Nora Dunn just wrapped a role in the feature film *Tag*, alongside Jon Hamm, Isla Fisher, Rashida Jones, & Jake Johnson. Next up, she will be guest starring in *The Librarians* for TNT. Nora also appeared on *Chicago Med* playing the “voice of reason with warmth” personal psychologist to Oliver Platt’s Head of Psychiatric Dept. character. She will be seen in Olivia Milch’s upcoming indie drama *Dude* in the supporting role of house manager “Rosa” and is off to shoot the role of “Marge Sudermill” in the 2017 contemporary politically themed indie drama *Canal Street*, a story about the reasons for the deep-seated divisions within the city of Chicago and the city’s diversity, touching on themes of family, friendship, and forgiveness. Nora was recently seen in the recurring role “Janet Smythe” in Disney Channel’s hit *Best Friends Whenever*. She also appeared in a major recurring role in *New Girl* as Schmidt’s straight-outta-Long-Island, controlling matriarch “Louise” who is always ready with unsolicited advice or a piece of chocolate; as a high-profile publicist in *Girlfriend’s Guide to Divorce* opposite Lisa Edelstein; as “Laura Wolf” the snarky Rachel Maddow-esque TV host who recurred on *Graves* opposite “X-POTUS Richard Graves” (Nick Nolte) and as *Mulaney*’s arch-type meddling mother. Nora was also seen in outstanding guest star roles this year on *Life in Pieces* and *Grace and Frankie*.

ERIK ESTRADA

Erik Estrada’s career has spanned over four decades. Although he had worked as an actor for years before his first television series, it was for his dynamic portrayal of Officer Francis ‘Frank’ Poncherello affectionately known as “Ponch” in the hit *CHiPs*, that he became a household name. Raised in New York City’s Spanish Harlem, he learned lessons of honor and integrity that Erik has carried with him throughout his life. His incredible journey from the projects in Spanish Harlem to the Hollywood Hills is shared in his auto-biography *Erik Estrada...My Road from Harlem To Hollywood*. His first real acting break came when actor/director Don Murray selected him to star as a streetwise character opposite Pat Boone in *The Cross and the Switchblade* and he went on to land the role of Sergio, a rookie policeman in *The New Centurions*. Erik has been discovered by a whole new generation and culture, who know him as “Johnny” from the number-one international series for Televisa *Dos Mujeres, Un Camino*. Erik received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame which he proudly dedicated to all the women and men in law enforcement. Erik has had an opportunity to share his great sense of humor with his fans shooting many cameos on TV and in film, including *Big Time Rush*, *Drake & Josh*, *Sealab 2021* and *The Misadventures of Maya and Miguel*. Erik continues to be a great supporter of police officer organizations throughout the world and because of this continual interest and commitment, he is now fulfilling one of his childhood dreams and six years ago joined the ranks of law enforcement by becoming a sworn reserve police officer for the Muncie P.D. in the state of Indiana and a sworn deputy sheriff in Bedford County in the state of Virginia. While beginning his work in Virginia, Erik was introduced to the Safe Surfin’ Foundation whose mission is to educate all school age children on the dangers of the internet. His concern for the safety of these children as well as his own eleven-year old daughter made him immediately commit to this crusade. He has joined SSF where not only is he a national spokesperson but is currently a Federal Investigative Officer for the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). Erik has been recognized by the Department of Justice and the U.S. Marshall Service for his dedication and service to protecting children from sexual predators on the internet. Through his continual dedication, Erik has been instrumental in educating people across the country on the importance of car seats for all children, the dangers of drugs and internet predators. Erik lends his support to other commendable charitable causes including CHiPs for Kids, Cops for Tots, the Thaliens, March of Dimes, United Way, Susan G. Komen, Aids L.A., Walk to Erase MS and Standup for Skate Parks. Off-screen, Erik prides himself as a home handyman who is constantly enhancing things around the Hollywood Hills house that he and his wife Nanette reside in with their daughter, Francesca. He is also the father of two grown sons, Anthony and Brandon. While he works hard at everything he does, Erik is known by his friends and colleagues as a committed husband, father and family man and a true professional in his craft.

CARMEN ELECTRA

With an impressive body of work that encompasses dance, television, film, comedy and theatre, Carmen Electra has quickly emerged as one of Hollywood’s most versatile personalities. Upon moving to Los Angeles from Cincinnati, Carmen caught the eye of legendary singer and songwriter Prince who helped launch her career as a singer and would go on to produce her self-titled album on his Paisley Park record label. Carmen ultimately ventured into acting with regular roles on *Baywatch*, along with starring roles in massive box office hits including the remake of the 1970’s TV show *Starsky & Hutch*, *Scary Movie*, *Dirty Love*, *Cheaper by the Dozen 2* and *Meet the Spartans*. Over the next few years, Carmen released her first book “How To Be Sexy,” she appeared live on stage at MGM Grand Vegas’ *Crazy Horse Burlesque Show* and served as a guest judge on *Britain’s Got Talent*. In 2012, Carmen released her return-to-music single “I Like it Loud,” featuring Grammy-nominated producer Bill Hamel. “I Like It Loud” hit the #25 spot on Billboard’s Dance Club Play Chart and from there, the sultry songstress was on fire, turning up the heat for audiences everywhere, including *The Wendy Williams Show*, Cyndi Lauper’s *Home for The Holidays* charity event and the *Life Ball* in Vienna. In June of 2014, Carmen released “Werq” and “Around The World” - both electrifying club anthem hits that showcase woman empowerment. The following year, Carmen wished to explore her entrepreneurial side and expand her brand by launching her new perfume “Carmen Electra” with FragranceNet that sold out in just weeks of releasing. In 2016, Carmen hosted WEtv’s new reality docuseries *Ex Isle*. Recently, Carmen has released her own line of lingerie titled “With Love From Carmen” that is currently sold in Europe



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VIVICA A. FOX

Glamorous, vivacious and undeniably beautiful, Vivica A. Fox has positioned herself as a Hollywood screen gem and has triumphantly built an international brand that stands on the strength that women can do anything. With an extensive body of work that encompasses unforgettable television, stage and film credits, Vivica A. Fox is an inspiration as a Hollywood actress, generous philanthropist and accomplished businesswoman. In 1996, Vivica's big break came when she scored a role in the summer blockbuster *Independence Day* alongside Will Smith and Jeff Goldblum. Vivica's career began to soar as she became Hollywood's new "it" girl, receiving critical acclaim for stand out performances in classic films including *Soul Food*, *Set It Off* and *Boozy Call*. Vivica cemented her status as a bonafide film star working with Oscar winners, including *Why Do Fools Fall in Love* with Halle Berry, *Kingdom Come* with Whoopi Goldberg, *Boat Trip* with Cuba Gooding Jr., *Ella Enchanted* with Anne Hathaway and *Batman and Robin* alongside George Clooney, while Oscar-winning director Quentin Tarantino handpicked Vivica to star alongside Uma Thurman in the international box office sensation *Kill Bill, Volumes 1 & 2*. As a versatile talent, Vivica has also starred in a number of television series and sitcoms, including *Out All Night*, *Missing*, where she also served as executive producer, *Getting Personal*, *Mr. Box Office*, and guest spots on *Living Single*, *Martin*, *My Life & Kids*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Who's The Boss*, *Melissa & Joey*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and *Celebrity Apprentice*, where she raised over \$50,000 for the Best Buddies Charity Organization. Aside from being an on-camera personality, Vivica has had major success in stage, television and film as a producer and businesswoman. Vivica teamed with VH1 to produce the reality show *Glam God*, and later produced two touring plays and several films. Vivica expanded her brand into the beauty industry and launched her own hair company – The Vivica Fox Hair Collection. Offering a variety of options for women in high quality wigs and extensions, Vivica's mission remains clear – to inspire women of all ages to live life to the fullest. Always trying to give back to the community, the starlet uses The Vivica Fox Hair Collection to make generous donations of free hair to women worldwide who have lost their own hair to cancer-related illnesses. In 2015, Vivica returned to the big screen in *Chocolate City* and wowed audiences with her debut in Fox Network's mega hit *Empire*, when she popped up as Candace, starring opposite Taraji P. Henson as Cookie's older sister. Later that year, Vivica continued to expand her brand into the fashion industry when she partnered with Curvy Couture and released a limited edition lingerie collection that sold out in days. In 2016, Vivica teamed up with exercise guru Shaun T of Beach Bodies for the workout infomercial T25 Focus, where the performer shares with fans her exercise and fitness routine and secrets. Last summer, Vivica's career came full circle when she reprised her role as Jasmine in the sequel to the film that gave the diva her start – *Independence Day: Resurgence*. Aside from numerous film, television and other projects in the works, Vivica's own empire continues to grow as this versatile Hollywood legend continues to inspire, indulge and entertain an international fan base. Vivica resides in Los Angeles, California.

PEREZ HILTON

Before there was an Instagram or a YouTube, there was Perez Hilton, the original social media influencer. Since creating PerezHilton.com in 2004, he has gone on to many other ventures and achievements. He's published three books, acted in film and television, worked in radio, and recently started his own podcast - the Perez Hilton Podcast, which can be heard at PerezPodcast.com. His proudest accomplishment, though, is his daughter and son - Mia and Mario.

CARSON KRESSLEY

Emmy-Award winning TV personality, style expert, fashion designer and New York Times best-selling author are just a few of Carson Kressley credits. Carson started his career as an independent stylist and worked with major designers including Ralph Lauren. A few years later, he took a leap into television in 2003 when he gained great exposure as the fashion savant on Bravo's *Queer Eye*, which won a primetime Emmy. With his close relationship with Oprah Winfrey, over the course of the years Carson has revolutionized America's personal fashion sense of style from OWN Network's *Carson-Nation* where Carson travelled to small towns throughout the U.S. transforming lives one person at a time with his signature heart, humor and style to hosting multiple TV shows including Lifetime's *How to Look Good Naked* and ABC's *True Beauty*. He also competed on several reality competitions shows such as *Big Brother Australia* and the thirteenth season of *Dancing With The Stars*. Aside from his own television shows, Carson has frequently appeared on talk shows as a fashion critic/commentator including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Live with Kelly and Michael*, *The Queen Latifah Show*, *Bethenny*, and *The Wendy Williams Show*. Carson released a signature line of women's sportswear and accessories, *Love Carson* which was known for instant affordable glamour and was sold at ShopHQ. More recently, Carson has been a key judge for Logo-TV series *RuPaul's Drag Race*, *RuPaul's All Stars* and *Gay for Play*. He has also competed on Food Network's *Celebrity Cupcake Wars* and ABC's *Celebrity Family Feud* and *Celebrity Apprentice* competing for his charity The True Colors Fund. Carson is a New York Times best-selling author with three books to his credit, including *You're Different and That's Super* and *Off The Cuff: The Essential Style Guide for Men and The Women Who Love Them*. His latest book is the women's style guide *Does This Book Make My Butt Look Big?* from St. Martin's Press. A strong supporter of many philanthropic causes, Carson uses his celebrity to advance different concerns such as The Trevor Project, The Human Rights Campaign, AIDS WALK, and the Al D. Rodriguez Liver Foundation. Carson is also a trustee on the board of The True Colors Fund, The American Saddle Bred Museum and Philadelphia University. When he is not starring on stage or screen, Carson can be found astride one of his American Saddlebred show horses, with which he has achieved World Champion status.



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SEAN LOWE

Sean Lowe is best known for being *The Bachelor* in the show's seventeenth season, where he met his now-wife Catherine Giudici. He has also appeared on *The Bachelorette*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *Celebrity Family Feud*, *Celebrity Wife Swap*, *Marriage Boot Camp* and *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*. Sean and Catherine are parents to one-year-old Samuel and the family resides in Texas.

MELISSA PETERMAN

Growing up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Melissa Peterman first made a name for herself when she was cast in the local production of *Tony and Tina's Wedding*. She went on to perform in over 600 shows and became a staple on the comedy and improv scenes. Most recently starring as "Bonnie Wheeler" in ABC Family's hit comedy series *Baby Daddy*, Melissa is best known for her starring role as "Barbra Jean" on the hit series *Reba*. She also starred in *Working Class*, *Retired at 35*, *Surviving Suburbia*, *Rita Rocks*, *Just Shoot Me*, *Cedric*, *Living in Abandon*, *The Pitts* and *American Dad*. Her first televised comedy special *Melissa Peterman: Am I the Only One?* aired on CMT and she also starred in *Dusty Peacock*, the online series created for Crackle.com. Melissa has hosted several competition shows, including the fourth season of CMT's *The Singing Bee*, ABC's primetime game show *Bet on Your Baby* and ABC Family's reality comedy clip show *Dancing Fools*. Melissa made her feature film debut as Hooker #2 in the Coen Brothers' Oscar-winning movie *Fargo*. Other film credits include *40 is the New Dead*, *Here Comes the Boom* and *Dirty Politics*. After working on her first comedy album, Melissa has toured with Reba McEntire, George Strait and Lee Ann Womack. Peterman is committed to many charities, including Muhammad Ali's Celebrity Fight Night, Habitat for Humanity, The Red Cross and the non-profit Buzzworks Theatre Company. She currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband and son.

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