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## **WORST COOKS IN AMERICA: CELEBRITY EDITION**

### **Contestant Bios (2018)**

#### **CATHERINE BACH**

Catherine Bach is a true American original. Kicking butt in short-shorts as Daisy Duke in *the Dukes of Hazzard* was the breakout role that made her a pop icon and sex symbol—and got those shorts into the Smithsonian. However, throughout her career, Catherine has proven her acting chops working alongside some of the best in the business: legends such as Robert Mitchum (*African Skies*), her mentor Burt Lancaster (*The Midnight Man*), Clint Eastwood (*Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*) and Burt Reynolds (*Hustle, Cannonball Run II*). Catherine has a unique focus and creative energy that enables her to see opportunities for success when it comes to character work and taking the banal to the extraordinary. It is thanks to Catherine's own sense of style and imagination that Daisy Dukes are now part of the popular vernacular—her character was initially supposed to wear a poodle skirt, but Catherine asked the producers for a shot at creating the character's wardrobe, with the idea of a more edgy look for an independent character. Catherine's famous pin-up poster that she styled has outpaced other contemporary beauties and sold over 5 million copies. Catherine is not afraid of adventure and activism; while portraying the lead in *African Skies*, the first American show filmed in South Africa after Apartheid, she spearheaded the cause of preserving the endangered Black Rhinoceros and testified before U.S. Congress to protect them. She was instrumental in lobbying for the Black Rhino and Tiger Preservation act, which was passed in 1996. Catherine's pillars are art, truth and dedication. She wrestles with material to get to the truth of it; collaborates effectively, as she sees collaboration as the only path to true art; dedicates her life to the pursuit of truth and art; and serves as a voice against injustices she finds in the meantime. She is a true American original; she is a free woman, and she is brave as hell.

#### **MARIA BAMFORD**

Maria Bamford stars in the semi-autobiographical Netflix comedy series *Lady Dynamite*, created by Mitch Hurwitz (*Arrested Development*) and Pam Brady (*South Park*). Maria is also the creator and star of *Maria Bamford: the special special special* and of the cult hit web series *The Maria Bamford Show*. She was the first female comic to have two half-hour *Comedy Central Presents* specials and starred alongside Patton Oswalt, Zach Galifianakis and Brian Posehn in the Comedy Central series *The Comedians of Comedy* and Netflix's *Comedians of Comedy: The Movie*. She voices characters on numerous animated series, including *Talking Tom and Friends*, *BoJack Horseman*, *Adventure Time*, *Legend of Korra*, *Puss in Boots* and PBS's Emmy-winning series *Word Girl*. Maria recurred as DeBrie Bardeaux on Netflix's *Arrested Development* reboot and on the ABC hit, *Fresh Off the Boat*. Her new special *Old Baby* is available on Netflix.

#### **NOLAN GOULD**

Nolan Gould is best known as the endearing Luke Dunphy in ABC's award-winning comedy *Modern Family*, now in its ninth season. Nolan's credits on the big screen include the Civil War drama *Field of Lost Shoes*, *The To-Do List* and *Friends with Benefits*. Most notable is Nolan's starring role in Logic's powerful new music video 1-800-273-8255. Named after the National Suicide Hotline, the video addresses homophobia and bullying while encouraging people to seek help. It amassed more than 10 million YouTube views in less than a week. Off screen, Nolan likes to spend his time outdoors, including hiking Mt. St. Helens. He has developed a strong sense of responsibility to protect and preserve animals and the environment, and is currently a Sierra Club Ambassador. Nolan has participated in marches advocating environmental preservation. He is a member of Oceana and is a certified scuba diver. Nolan starred in and produced his passion project *Human Nature*, a pilot focused on wildlife conservation. A highlight of working on this program was interviewing the Dalai Lama.

#### **LA TOYA JACKSON**

La Toya Jackson is a globally-known entertainer, two-time bestselling author, television and film Producer, Grammy Award-winning song writer, philanthropist, international television personality, actress and entrepreneur. Born into America's Royal Family of Pop Music, The Jacksons, La Toya was exposed to the world of entertainment at an early age. She made her debut at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, tap dancing and singing with her brothers The Jackson 5. Coming from an extraordinary talented family, naturally La Toya decided to make show business the focus of her life. She has performed for fans in more than 90 countries around the world. As a television personality she has appeared on numerous talk and variety shows as well as television series throughout the world starting with *The Jackson Family Variety Show*, *Armed & Famous*, *Celebrity Big Brother UK*, *Celebrity Apprentice*, as well as *All-Star Celebrity Apprentice*, *America's Next Top Model*, *RuPaul's Drag Race* and *Beverly Hills 90210* just to name a few. La Toya has also co-hosted *The View* and *The Talk* many times over, she was also hired by Access Hollywood to be their celebrity correspondent on *Dancing With The Stars*. She also produced and starred in her own reality show on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), entitled, *Life With La Toya*. La Toya has also executive produced the docudrama movie *Dancing In Jaffa* and the thriller *21 Days*.

#### **OSCAR NUÑEZ**

Oscar Nuñez is best known for playing Oscar Martinez on NBC's *The Office*. He has won an Emmy, two SAG Awards, an ALMA Award, a TV Land Award and an Impact Award from the National Hispanic Media Coalition for the role. Oscar is also recognized for his role in the hit movie *The Proposal* and for creating and starring in his own Comedy Central series, *Halfway Home*. Raised in New Jersey, Oscar's acting career



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started on the East Coast. He studied acting in New York and Washington D.C. and performed with The Shock of the Funny improv troupe. After stints studying fashion, art and dentistry, Oscar moved to Los Angeles where he performed with the Groundlings as a member of their Sunday Company. Oscar starred alongside The Rock and Zac Efron in the *Baywatch* movie, with Antonio Banderas in the Chilean mining disaster film *The 33* and as the opposing attorney to Rob Lowe in the Lifetime original movie *Prosecuting Casey Anthony*. He has guested on TV shows like *New Girl*, *Brooklyn Nine Nine*, *Life in Pieces*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *American Housewife*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and lent his voice to animations like *Bob's Burgers*, *The Life and Times of Tim*, *Home* and the upcoming *Where's Waldo?* He has recurred on Showtime's *Shameless*, Comedy Central's *Reno 911*, and was a series regular on the 2014 USA legal comedy, *Benchend*. Oscar currently stars on the TBS comedy hit, *People of Earth*.

### **BRONSON PINCHOT**

Bronson Pinchot is well-known for his appearances on stage and screen, including his starring role in the hit television show *Perfect Strangers*, and will soon be seen in a key role in the upcoming *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* reboot on Netflix. He has recently appeared in *Ray Donovan*, *The Adventures of Laura* and *NCIS*. On the big screen, his films include *True Romance* and *Beverly Hills Cop III* and on Broadway, Bronson has starred in *Putting It Together* and *Sly Fox*. He also had his own show *The Bronson Pinchot Project* on DIY, where he renovated neglected old homes and buildings in rural Pennsylvania.

### **IAN ZIERING**

Raised in West Orange, New Jersey, Ian Ziering began booking national commercials at the young age of 12, which led to roles in various soap operas and stage plays, most notably *Guiding Light*, the Broadway production of *I Remember Mama* and a role in the national touring production of *Peter Pan*. In 1981, he made his feature film debut in *Endless Love* opposite Brooke Shields, Tom Cruise and James Spader. In 1990, Ian landed the role that would change his life – Steve Sanders on the teen drama *Beverly Hills 90210* for the series' entire 10-year run. The show brought worldwide fame to the cast. During this time, he appeared in various films and television shows, including Russell Crowe's *No Way Back*, *What I Like About You* and *Melrose Place*. Since 90210, Ian's television credits include *CSI: NY*, *JAG* and *Fran Drescher's Happily Divorced*. In addition, he has continued to be one of the most in-demand actors for various animated films and television shows, including *Spider-Man*, *Mighty Ducks*, *Batman Beyond* and *Biker Mice from Mars*. In 2005, Ian also appeared in the Tony Scott thriller *Domino* opposite Keira Knightley. Additional film credits include *National Lampoon's The Legend of Awesomest Maximus*, *That's My Boy* with Adam Sandler, *An American Girl: McKenna Shoots for the Stars* with Nia Vardalos, *Snake and Mongoose* and *Christmas in Palm Springs*. In 2007, Ian showed the world that he was a true triple threat when he signed on to the fourth season of the hit ABC series *Dancing with the Stars*. A fan favorite with his partner Cheryl Burke, the pair eventually danced their way into the show's semifinals. In addition to his ongoing acting roles and voiceover work, Ian most recently hosted HGTV's *A-List Pets*. In 2013, at the age of 49, Ian became a Las Vegas headliner when he starred as the celebrity guest host of the award-winning production of *Chippendales* at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino. To prepare for this role, he hit the gym and dropped 30 pounds, transforming himself into a fit and muscled man, thrilling the sold-out audiences. His *Chippendales* engagement brought in a new wave of fans and international acclaim, thrusting him once again into the limelight. Ian was asked to return to the show in summer 2014 for another sold-out run at the Rio. Ian stars in Syfy's hit global franchise *Sharknado*, which became a social media and cult classic upon its 2013 airing. He has since reprised his role in each of the *Sharknado* sequels. A true philanthropist, Ian used his brains, brawn and heart when he competed on NBC's seventh season of the hit series *Celebrity Apprentice*. Along with his other contestants, he endured challenging tasks that tested his ability to work with his colleagues while ultimately raising over \$300,000 for the EB Medical Research Foundation. Ian is proud to be the fourth highest celebrity fundraiser in the history of *Celebrity Apprentice*. Inspired by the entrepreneurial series, he created a new clothing line, *Chainsaw Brands*. In keeping with his philanthropic nature, a portion of all proceeds from the sale of all items will benefit those less fortunate. In addition, in February 2016, Ian launched *Celebrity Hideaways*, a go-to source for news, information, travel tips, exclusives, specials and first-class experiences for the discerning traveler. Ian lives with his wife and two daughters in Los Angeles. The quintessential father and family man, he was named DaddyScrubs' "Daddy of the Year 2013," an award which recognizes fathers who are extremely proactive in raising their children. In June 2016, Ian and his wife launched the family blog *AtHomeWithTheZierings.com*, a creative resource for other families.

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