FIVE COMPETING CHEFS ANNOUNCED FOR CHEF BATTLE: DESSERT EDITION

Chicago Public Media’s 6th annual cooking competition celebrates the sweet side of Chicago’s restaurant scene on October 23

CHICAGO (September 27, 2013) – Chicago Public Media announces the competitors for its sixth annual Chef Battle and its first-ever Dessert Edition. Five local pastry chefs and bakers – Dana Cree, Dinah Grossman, Ben Roche, Jessica Oloroso and Jonathon Ory – will face off in an effort to create the best dessert using Intelligentsia’s new line of Kilogram Teas as a primary ingredient with additional fresh ingredients from Whole Foods Market. Chef Battle: Dessert Edition takes place Wednesday, October 23, 7-10 p.m. at Kendall College, 900 N North Branch St., Chicago. Tickets – $15/general admission, $12/WBEZ members and $10/students – are available now at wbez.org/events.

Participating chefs for the 2013 Chef Battle are:

- **Dana Cree** has held the position of Pastry Chef at both Blackbird and Avec restaurants since June, 2012, where she manages the two divergent menus, drawing inspiration from local and seasonal products while utilizing a unique blend of contemporary and traditional pastry techniques gathered from her time in Europe, Scandinavia and both coasts of the United States.
- **Dinah Grossman** has worked as a pastry chef in restaurants in Maine, Massachusetts and Alaska before relocating to Chicago in 2007. Prior to founding Cheap Tart Bakery in 2010, she wrote about food, arts and culture for multiple print and online publications, and taught and performed Argentine tango.
- **Ben Roche**, after nearly a year and a half as a baker at world-renowned Charlie Trotter’s and more than eight years at Moto Restaurant as Executive Pastry Chef, opened Baume & Brix as Co-Executive Chef. Roche has an impressive understanding of “new” ingredients and how to utilize cutting edge technology such as liquid nitrogen, centrifuges and freeze dryers.
- **Jessica Oloroso** is a Chicago native who started Black Dog Gelato in 2007 after leaving her position as Pastry Chef at Stephaine Izard’s Scylla. Her gelato creations combine the artisanal process with inventive and intriguing flavors that are inspired by both sweet and savory ingredients.
- **Jonathon Ory**, with past experience at Schwa in Chicago, Restaurant Eugene in Atlanta and Momofuku Ko in New York City, is now the owner and operator of recently opened Bad Wolf Coffee in West Lakeview, featuring gourmet pastries and coffee “the way it’s supposed to be made.”

At Chef Battle, everyone in the audience gets to taste each dessert and judge, voting on their favorites with prizes going to the winning chef. For the first time ever, there will also be a Jury Prize. The jury comprises food blogger Louisa Chu, Monica Eng (Tribune and WBEZ), ABC7’s Hungry Hound Steve Dolinsky and others.
Kendall College will provide additional savory bites for palate cleansing, and Goose Island Beer, The Wine Goddess and Intelligentsia Coffee will provide beverages. The Afternoon Shift’s Niala Boodhoo will host. At the end of the evening, the audience chooses which dessert is the best. At last year’s Chef Battle: International Edition, Tank Noodle’s vegetarian lemongrass coconut tofu curry, and lemongrass chicken curry, both cooked with Goose Island Sofie beer, won the most votes from 800 attendees.

About Chicago Public Media
Chicago Public Media is an institution that creates award-winning content for people seeking to learn more about the issues and ideas that affect our community, our nation and our world. Chicago Public Media produces programs such as This American Life, Sound Opinions, Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me! (a co-production with NPR), The Morning Shift with Tony Sarabia, Worldview, and Radio M. It operates WBEZ 91.5 FM, one of the country’s premier public radio stations, and Vocalo 89.5 FM, an experimental web/radio service that seeks to expand the reach of public media. For more information, please visit www.chicagopublicmedia.org.

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Photos available here:
https://picasaweb.google.com/117935403633577951688/ChefBattleDesserts?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCJeeJpouOpeGT7wE&feat=directlink