**TASTE OF FAME 2024 SCRIPT**

**Paparazzi 2024 Plays**

**Charlie**

* Welcome to the 10th Annual Taste of Fame! I'm Charlie Miller, a proud Central New York food enthusiast and multi-media journalist with Syracuse.com.
* I am thrilled to be emceeing this year’s Taste of Fame alongside Celebrity Chef and Restaurateur Tiffany Derry.
* Taste of Fame is WCNY’s signature fundraising culinary experience, bringing people together from across the region to enjoy recipes by some of the country’s most talented chefs. Tonight, we celebrate local fresh ingredients and wine locally produced in the Finger Lakes region. We’ll also learn more about Chef Tiffany through her stories and experiences.
* Taste of Fame would not be possible without the support of the WCNY Board of Trustees, the leadership of President & CEO, Mitch Gelman, the entire WCNY team, and the amazing WCNY members in this room. Without each and every one of you, tonight would not be possible.
* So, let’s hear it for 250+ foodie fans in this room!
* Now, I’d like to thank the incredible sponsors and supporters of WCNY and Taste of Fame.

**READ LIST with a pause between each sponsor and lead applause**

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**Wait for applause, Continue**

* Don’t forget! Tonight’s event also features a silent auction with a ton of great items you do not want to miss out on. On behalf of WCNY, I would like to thank these amazing donors for their contributions!
* The auction is open until 8:15 p.m. and can be accessed right on your phone! To place a bid or make a donation, text TOF24 to 243725, visit bidpal.net/tof24, or scan the QR code on the silent auction pamphlet at your place setting to register now!
* Remember, when you make a bid in the silent auction, your contribution supports WCNY’s educational services, programming, and mission. Another significant way to show your support for WCNY is by becoming a sustaining member and making a monthly contribution that aligns with your budget. You can do this tonight right on the silent auction website, or by scanning one of the donate QR codes around the room.
* Now, I’d like to invite WCNY Board Chair Michael Humphrey to the stage to say a few words.

**Charlie leaves the stage. Michael takes the podium.**

**Michael**

* Thank you, Charlie! I am thrilled to welcome you all to this year’s Taste of Fame!
* Let's hear it again for our wonderful host, the talented Chef Tiffany Derry.
* On behalf of the WCNY board and myself, we extend our deepest gratitude to the volunteers, members, and community partners whose contributions have been pivotal in establishing WCNY as one of the most connected, innovative, and successful PBS stations in the country!
* WCNY is dedicated to serving our communities, sharing the stories of our region, and delivering educational and inspirational entertainment. Together, we are creating a meaningful impact on our entire community.
* I’d now like to introduce to you Evelyn Ingram, a member of WCNY's Board of Directors Emeritus.

**Evelyn Takes the Stage. Michael Leaves the Stage.**

**Evelyn**

* Thank you, Michael!
* A special thank you to Chef Tiffany and her Sous Chef Naomig [pronounced Naomi] for making the journey to Syracuse to support one of WCNY's largest fundraisers of the year. Your dedication to our local PBS affiliate is deeply appreciated, and we cannot thank you enough.
* We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this extraordinary event. WCNY stands among the finest PBS stations in the nation, and evenings like tonight only reinforce that sentiment.
* Now, I’d like to introduce WCNY’s President and CEO, Mitch Gelman.

**Mitch Takes the Stage. Evelyn Leaves the Stage.**

**Mitch**

* Thank you, Evelyn.
* I’d like to start by expressing our gratitude to each and every one of you for being a part of WCNY’s 10th annual Taste of Fame.
* I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to all our incredible sponsors. It is their generosity and immense support that makes this event such a great success.
* Now, I'd like to invite the devoted members of our Board of Trustees to please rise. Your guidance and steadfast commitment to public broadcasting are deeply appreciated.
* And most importantly, I'd like to offer special thanks to my wife, Dr. Melissa Gelman, whose unwavering support has been the driving force behind my family not only throughout this past year, but every year.

**(pause)**

* WCNY is dedicated to serving our community, sharing our unique stories, and delivering educational and cultural content that inspires our region. Events such as this are instrumental in helping WCNY fulfill its mission and enhance the quality of life in Central New York. This would not be possible without all your generous support.
* Before we embark on this culinary journey together, let's take a look at the events, initiatives, and achievements that WCNY has been involved in this past year.

**Mitch Leaves the Stage**

**2024 WCNY Showcase Sizzle Plays**

**Charlie Returns to the Podium**

**Charlie**

* WCNY has truly made a remarkable impact on the Central New York Community. Let's give a big round of applause for the WCNY team!

**Wait for Applause, Continue**

* Before tonight’s featured Chef, Tiffany Derry, takes the stage, let me share some background on just how remarkable and talented she is!
* Chef Tiffany is the founder of Tiffany Derry Concepts and co-founder of T2D Concepts, the Texas-based purpose driven hospitality group behind Roots Chicken Shak, Roots Southern Table, Radici Wood Fired Grill, and ʻShef Tiffany spice and apparel line. Outside of her restaurants, Tiffany regularly appears as a judge or contestant on national television shows including, “Worst Cooks in America,” “MasterChef,” “Bobby’s Triple Threat,” “The Great American Recipe,” “Top Chef,” “Chopped,” “Beat Bobby Flay,” “Guys Ranch,” “Guy’s Grocery Games,” and the “Great American Soul Food Cook Off.”
* Tiffany’s authentic approach to Southern cooking earned her a spot as a 2022 James Beard Award finalist list in two categories: Best Chef, Texas, and Best New Restaurant for Roots Southern Table, which has also been recognized as one of America’s top restaurants by Esquire and The New York Times. Additionally, T2D Concepts, founded by Tiffany and her business partner Tom, was named to Nation’s Restaurant News Power List, the definitive list of the 50 most powerful industry leaders, for their forward-thinking and inclusive approach to hospitality.
* And now the moment you have all been waiting for…. introducing Chef Tiffany Derry!

**Tiffany Takes the Stage with Charlie**

**Tiffany**

* Good evening, everyone!
* I’d first like to thank WCNY for inviting me to host this outstanding award-winning event!
* Secondly, I’d like to thank all of you for coming out tonight to enjoy this wonderful culinary experience!

**Intro the salad – Caesar Salad**

* In front of you, you’ll find the Caesar salad.
	+ Storytelling about the recipe and how it came to be. Whatever else you you’d like to say!

**Charlie**

* + Ask questions about the behind-the-scenes experience of filming “The Great American Recipe,” and anything else you’d like to ask!

**Tiffany**

* How many of you have seen PBS' “The Great American Recipe?” Did you know Season 3 recently aired? For those who missed it, I have a preview of the latest season for you.

**The Great American Recipe Season 3 Promo Plays**

**Charlie**

* Thank you, Tiffany, for sharing the season 3 trailer with us! If you missed the new season, we have great news! Season 3 will re-air starting tomorrow, Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. on WCNY-TV.
* Don’t forget to follow WCNY on social media to see all the photos from tonight’s event! And be sure to use #TASTEOFAME24 to share your photos with us.
* Please continue enjoying your salad. And don’t forget to pour yourself a glass of wine, courtesy of Wagner Vineyards, or grab a complimentary craft beer from Willow Rock Brewing Company at the bar.
* We will return shortly with the main course.

**Charlie and Tiffany Leave the Stage; Guests Eat Salad**

**Charlie & Mitch Take the Stage**

*(Once servers start clearing the salad course)*

**Charlie**

* How great was that salad? I can’t wait to see what’s in store for the entree course!
* Here's a friendly reminder that the clock is ticking for the silent auction. The auction CLOSES AT 8:15 p.m., so be sure to get your bids in soon on OneCause!
* Once the auction closes, be sure to check OneCause to see if you’ve won an item. If you’ve won, please pick up your item at the auction table in the back of the room at the end of the event.
* Before we welcome Tiffany back to the stage, WCNY’s CEO and President, Mitch Gelman, would like to say a few words.

**Charlie Leaves the Stage**

**Mitch**

* I wanted to say a few quick words regarding our silent auction tonight.
* All proceeds from the silent auction will be used to support WCNY and its mission to improve education, create economic opportunities, and enhance quality of life by telling our stories, serving our communities, and encouraging appreciation for diversity, partnership, and learning.
* Programs like Pulso Central, Central New York’s first Spanish-language radio initiative which debuted on September 15, features music and a variety of local and national shows hosted by talented individuals discussing topics relevant to the Spanish-speaking community in Central New York and the Mohawk Valley. The station is poised to become a vital resource, reflecting the vibrant mix of Hispanic and Latino cultures and effectively engaging these populations like no other local or regional medium does.
* WCNY’s World of Adaptive Sports programming showcases exceptional athletes and inspiring stories, featuring sports such as Challenger Baseball, sled hockey, adaptive basketball, wheelchair football, as well as skiing and tennis in the Special Olympics. The program aims to unite communities, break down stigmas, and open our eyes to the incredible possibilities of adaptive sports.
* WCNY’s Entertainment Academy, a fourteen-week training program in the TV and film production trades where trainees gain real-world experience in grip, electric, shopcraft, and set dressing, as well as earn OSHA and Aerial Lift certifications. They also develop video and sound engineering skills, creating a pathway to union membership and preparing them for careers that offer sustainable value to employers in the entertainment industry.
* Finally, WCNY’s locally produced shows “The Reading League’s Reading Buddies” and “Bloom: The Toxic Threat to the Finger Lakes” earned Emmy nominations at the 67th annual New York Emmy Awards.
	+ Reading Buddies: Children/Youth (12 and under) - Short or Long Form Content
	+ Bloom: Environment/Science – Long Form Content
* I’m also excited to announce that WCNY’s new six-episode pilot series, “Balancing Act with John Katko,” will be premiering on Friday, Oct. 4 at 8:30 p.m.
* You can learn more about all of these great programs at wcny.org.
* WCNY is constantly evolving and fully engaged with a diverse audience that shares our passion for public service. Together, we will continue to contribute to community prosperity and embrace innovation to foster a well-informed, inspired world.
* To access the silent auction, text “TOF24” to 243725, visit bidpal.net/tof24, or scan the QR code on the silent auction pamphlet.
* Now, let’s get this show back on the road. Tiffany, the floor is yours.

**Mitch Leaves the Stage. Tiffany and Charlie Take the Stage.**

**Tiffany**

**Intro the Entrées – Burnt Sugar Short Ribs, Fennel-Roasted Chicken, Chargrilled Cabbage**

* Storytelling about the recipes and how they came to be. Whatever else you want to say!

**Charlie**

* Ask questions about the behind-the-scenes experience of filming “Top Chef,” “Bobby’s Triple Threat,” and “Worst Cooks in America,” about her restaurants and the recipes she chooses to feature on the menu, and anything else you’d like to ask!

**Tiffany Leaves the Stage**

**Charlie**

* Thanks, Tiffany! I hope you are all enjoying your entrees.
* Now it’s time for a quick giveaway! Check the back of your Taste of Fame menu card. If you have a yellow dot on the bottom right corner, you are the winner of your table’s floral arrangement! Congratulations!
* Now, let’s take a look at some of Tiffany’s most recent appearances on national television.

**Tiffany Sizzle Reel Plays**

**Charlie**

* We will return shortly for the final course!

**Charlie Leaves the Stage, Guests Eat Entrees**

**Charlie Takes the Stage**

**Charlie**

* What a wonderful burst of fresh, vibrant flavors! I hope you all enjoyed your entrée as much as I did.
* And don’t forget to tag WCNY on social media using #TASTEOFFAME24 to share your foodie photos with us!
* Now, let’s welcome Tiffany back to the stage for the final course of tonight’s culinary journey.

**Tiffany Takes the Stage with Charlie**

**Tiffany – Dessert Course**

**Intro the dessert – Pistachio Olive Oil Cake**

* Storytelling about the recipe and how it came to be. Whatever else you want to say!

**Charlie**

* Ask questions about Tiffany’s ‘Shef Tiffany Spice and DerryWear Apparel, and anything else you’d like to ask!
* Mention that the coffee was provided by Café Kubal – coffee sponsor

**Charlie**

* In addition to being an exceptional chef and having an incredible apparel line, Tiffany is a passionate advocate for social justice and equity across gender, race, and food access. She is also a member of Les Dames d’Escoffier, a spokesperson for the James Beard Foundation’s sustainability efforts, a board member of the National Restaurant Association, an educational ambassador for the U.S. Embassy, and a supporter of No Kid Hungry and MAPP.
	+ Feel free to ask questions about the foundations she’s involved with, including why she’s part of them and what they aim to achieve.
* You can learn more about T2D Concepts at tiffanyderryconcepts.com.
* Enjoy dessert, we’ll be back soon!

**Tiffany and Charlie Leave the Stage, Guests Eat Dessert**

**Tiffany, Charlie, and Mitch Come Back to the Stage**

**Charlie**

* What a night! That was an incredible culinary experience, Tiffany. Your recipes and stories were fantastic. Let’s have a round of applause for Chef Tiffany Derry!

**Wait for applause, then continue.**

* How great was tonight's food and service? Let's hear it for the entire team at Drumlins Country Club!

**Wait for applause, then continue.**

* We’d like to say a special thank you to Drumlins Catering Sales Director, Laura Massa, Director of Food & Beverage, Joe Sidoni, and General Manager, Randy King for your incredible support of this event. And a huge thank you to Chef Gregg Wright and his culinary team for replicating Tiffany’s recipes to perfection.

**Drumlins staff Takes the Stage + Group Photo**

**Wait for applause, then continue.**

* And last but not least, Brian Simons and his wonderful AV and production team from Sensational Events. We couldn’t have done it without you!

**Drumlins Staff Leaves the Stage**

**Wait for applause, then continue.**

**Tiffany**

* I want to say a special thank you tonight to WCNY’s sustaining members! Sustaining members support programming and new community-enriching initiatives by providing reliable funding to WCNY. If you are not yet a sustaining member, please join right now!
* I also want to thank all of you for attending this great event supporting WCNY and its mission!
* And finally, thank you WCNY for inviting me to host the 10th annual Taste of Fame. It’s been an honor to share my recipes and stories with you all, and I truly hope you enjoyed the evening; I know I sure did!

**Mitch**

* Thank you message for attending, supporting, etc.
* To conclude the evening, I’m excited to announce that WCNY’s new cooking show “Spatchcock Funk” is premiering its second season in March 2025! Tonight, we’re giving you an exclusive sneak peek at the dope food, strong drinks, and great stories you can look forward to in the new season!

**Spatchcock Funk Season 2 Sizzle Plays**

**Charlie**

* I believe the creators of Spatchcock Funk are in the house tonight. I’d like to invite Matt Read and Alex DeRosa to join us on the stage.

**Matt & Alex Take the Stage**

**Matt & Alex**

* Say hello and anything fun you want to share about what’s in store for Season 2.

**Matt & Alex Take Photo with Tiffany**

**Matt & Alex Leave the Stage**

**Charlie**

* Now, back to the main show!
* I’d like to echo my thanks to every single person in this room.
* This event would not be possible without the support of presenting sponsor, Wegmans, and the rest of the amazing sponsors! And last but not least, the WCNY members.
* On your way out tonight, please be sure to take your Taste of Fame whiskey glass. And centerpiece winners, don’t forget to take your table’s centerpiece home with you!
* And for those who bid on the silent auction items and/or made a donation, thank you! Please check OneCause to see if you won an item! Winners, please head over to the WCNY Silent Auction table at the auction table in the back of the room to pick up your items.
* Thank you again for supporting WCNY and Taste of Fame! We hope you have a wonderful night!