

## Big Culinary Battle

BLACK.

Then -- the very intense opening title song of...

FADE IN:

**INT. KITCHEN STUDIO - DAY**

A plethora of culinary equipment -- assembled into two different sections.

Standing amidst it, under a spotlight, is a professional, poised, and extremely well dressed male HOST.

HOST  
(thick British accent)  
Hello...  
(beat)  
And welcome to...

TITLE OVER: **BIG CULINARY BATTLE**

HOST  
...Big...Culinary...Battle!  
(beat)  
I'm your host -- and ONE of three  
judges -- perhaps the most  
accomplished -- Graham Smith.  
(beat)  
This is the show where two chefs  
face off in a battle.  
(beat)  
A big.  
(beat)  
Culinary.  
(beat)  
Battle.  
(beat)  
Where...big culinary  
things...happen.  
(beat)  
...On a BIG culinary scale.  
(beat)  
It's *really* big.

Beat.

HOST  
We will decide the dish, and it's  
up them to wow us with their unique  
spin on it.  
(beat)  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HOST (cont'd)  
Right. Let's meet our two chefs,  
shall we?

**INT. ROOM - DAY**

Classic reality TV interview with b-roll of the chefs.  
The first chef - clearly a young stoner.

SKYLAR  
I'm Skylar. I was, uh, the manager  
of a Denny's for like, three  
months.  
(pause)  
I'd say, my, uh, culinary style is  
more...casual.

INTERVIEWER (O.S)  
What do you mean?

SKYLAR  
Umm...  
(beat)  
I like, uh...simplicity.

INTERVIEWER (O.S)  
Can you explain that?

Skylar sighs, thinks about how to answer this for an  
excessively long moment. When it's clear he's not going to  
respond --

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

The host, Graham Smith - dressed in chef whites, scrambling  
around a kitchen, sweaty, shirtless.

HOST (V.O)  
Oh. So sorry. That's actually me,  
cooking a Steak Tartare at my  
restaurant.  
(unconvincing --)  
Not sure how that footage got in  
there, actually.  
(beat)  
Right, onto the next contestants,  
lads...

CUT TO:

**INT. JACK'S KITCHEN - DAY**

A man, cooking away at a stove - his back to us.

HOST (V.O)

In addition to being an  
extraordinary cook, our next  
contestant also has an  
EXTRAORDINARY ability...

(beat)

...To NOT see.

The man turns, revealing a blind man with a frying pan in  
one hand and a walking stick in the other.

BLIND MAN

I'm Ben.

(beat)

I'm legally blind, as you can  
probably tell.

(beat)

I once looked directly into the  
sun...

(long pause)

...But it didn't do much, because I  
was already blind at the time.

(clears throat)

That's a joke.

Beat.

BLIND MAN

(beat)

I haven't let my disability stop me  
from pursuing my culinary dreams,  
though...

From behind him -- a massive flame roars up from the pan he  
was cooking.

INTERVIEWER (O.S)

Um, sir, I think your dish is on  
fire.

BLIND MAN

Nope. It's supposed to do that.

INTERVIEWER (O.S)

Are you sure?

BLIND MAN

Yeah. Yeah, I like mine medium...

Then, breaking the silence --

(CONTINUED)

...The smoke alarm.

BLIND MAN  
(suddenly, worried)  
...Medium to well done.

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN STUDIO - DAY**

Back to the host.

HOST  
Right, well, we've met our chefs,  
and now let's get to it, shall we?  
Let's reveal the dish these fine  
chefs will have to put their unique  
spin on...

A plate with a dome is brought forth. The host takes it off,  
after several beats of anticipation, revealing...

HOST  
Mac and Cheese.  
(beat)  
The classic comfort dish.  
(condescendingly --)  
Comforting to some, I suppose not a  
chef of my stature, of course. I  
like to be more sophisticated to be  
honest, BUT I'm sure certain people  
with unsophisticated taste buds  
would certainly classify it as  
comfort food.

The contestants raise their eyebrows, and mumble softly to  
themselves - *What?*

HOST  
Skylar, how are you feeling about  
Mac and Cheese?

Cut to - Skylar, halfway through the plate.

SKYLAR  
It's pretty fucking delicious, I  
have to say.

HOST  
Yeah, you're not supposed to  
actually eat that.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HOST (cont'd)  
That's a display.  
(beat)  
I was talking about *you*. How are  
you feeling about making your *own*  
mac and cheese dish?

Skylar - noticeably stoned - cocks an eyebrow.

SKYLAR  
I'm sorry. What?

The host sighs, turns to the blind man.

SKYLAR  
How about you, Ben? How are you  
feeling about Mac and Cheese?

BLIND MAN  
I'm feeling really good, actually.  
I cook it all the time. It should  
be fine.

HOST  
I'd just like to point out that Ben  
is actually legally blind.

BLIND MAN  
Yeah. I think they got that.

HOST  
Right, well, I just wanted to  
emphasize it.  
(beat)  
Truly inspiring. Quite noble of  
this Network to have such diversity  
in it's programming, don't you  
think?

An awkward pause.

HOST  
Right, lads. You will have thirty  
minutes to wow me with your  
personal rendition on this classic  
dish.  
(beat)  
Head to your stations. We're going  
to start this big culinary battle  
in...  
(beat)  
5...4...3...2...1...GO!

-- A quick montage of pans, instruments, cooking utensils being whisked over burners and ovens. A timer clicks down from "30:00, 29:59, 29:58"...

**INT. SKYLAR'S STATION - DAY**

Skylar, standing around his station with his team.

SKYLAR

...We could do like sea shell pasta. With like four different cheeses. You know the ones that look like little sea shells? I think we could--

Graham Smith suddenly plants himself right in the middle of the group, sticks a microphone in everyone's face.

HOST

--Right, Skylar. Tell me what your plans are.

SKYLAR

(confused)

I - we're not sure yet. That's why we're talking it out, bro.

(to his team)

Alright, so, I think--

HOST

--Right, well, you know you have thirty minutes, so, you better come up with something quick, lad.

SKYLAR

(clearly agitated)

Yes.

HOST

Was there lots of Mac and Cheese at Denny's, Skylar?

SKYLAR

(drenched in sarcasm)

Uh, no there wasn't, Graham. Thank you very much for asking, though.

(turns to team)

Alright, guys, I think we can also do a hard boiled--

(CONTINUED)

HOST

--Surely you prepared this dish  
plenty of times when you were  
unemployed for two years?

Skylar, getting very pissed off --

SKYLAR

No, Graham. I actually didn't.

HOST

(turning back to us)  
Right, well, passions clearly  
running high on this program.  
Skylar is feeling the heat, surely.  
Let's see what Ben is up to.

**INT. BEN'S STATION - DAY**

The clock reads "15:00"

Ben, cooking with his crew. His assistant reaches over Ben,  
just as Ben quickly whips around with a knife. It  
accidentally slices open the assistant's throat, and he  
starts bleeding everywhere.

Because Ben is blind, he doesn't notice, and starts smiling  
obliviously as Graham approaches him - the assistant gags  
and writhes around, blood spurting out of his throat.

BEN

Hey, Graham!  
(beat)  
Working on something *real* special  
for you, buddy.

Ben's assistant is convulsing, bleeding, in the background.

HOST

(RE: Dead assistant)  
Um, Ben, I'm just worried--

BEN

--What? That just because I'm blind  
that I don't know what I'm doing?  
Is what you're going to say?

HOST

No, lad! Not at all! I'm just  
worried that your assistant might  
be--

(CONTINUED)



BEN

--Oh, helping me too much? So, you think just because I'm blind that I need a *helper*, is that it?

HOST

No, I'm--

BEN

--You think I'm cheating?

HOST

I think he might be dead, Ben.

Ben slowly cranes his neck backwards. Doesn't hear the shuffling of his assistant starts to worry.

BEN

Um, no, I think he's fine.

HOST

I can see him on the ground, Ben. I really think he's dead.

BEN

(shocked)

Oh. I see...

(suddenly, angry --)

I see what this is. This is just an attempt by your network masters to throw some entertainment in the loop, huh, Graham? Kill the blind guys' assistant to ratchet up the suspense? Nice \*BLEEP\*ing trick.

(beat)

Well, you've \*BLEEP\*ing done it, man. Was it not good enough that I have one handicap, you have to handicap me again?

On Graham Smith's face -- confused, guilt-ridden, no idea what to say, so he just walks away.

BEN

You know what? \*BLEEP\* this show.

Ben suddenly takes a knee like Colin Kapaernick.

HOST

Right, well, it seems that Ben is sitting this one out, I guess.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HOST (cont'd)  
He seems to be to be...taking a  
knee in some sort of...act of  
protest.

THE TIMER -- "00:03", "00:02", "00:01"

DING!

The alarm goes off. Time up. The crowd cheers. Everyone  
breathes a sigh of relief.

**INT. SKYLAR'S STATION - DAY**

Skylar, out of breath, hugs his assistant as if he's just  
finished a long marathon.

**INT. BEN'S STATION - DAY**

Ben, still kneeling in protest, doesn't budge.

**INT. KITCHEN STUDIO - DAY**

Graham takes the stage.

HOST  
Right. Time's up, lads.  
(beat)  
Ben, why don't you bring your dish  
up?

Ben, who was still kneeling, gets up and takes a plate with  
a metal dome over it, and places it before Graham.

Graham lifts off the dome. It's empty.

HOST  
Right, Ben, why don't you tell us  
what you made?

BEN  
Sure, Chef.  
(beat)  
I made nothing.

Pause.

HOST  
I'm sorry?

(CONTINUED)

BEN  
You heard me.

HOST  
You made nothing.

BEN  
That's correct. Exactly what you  
\*BLEEP\*ing deserve.

HOST  
OK...  
(beat)  
OK. Well, let's dig in, shall we?

Graham very seriously takes a fork and knife, cuts nothing on the plate, and lifts it to his mouth, and starts chewing as if he's eating something.

HOST  
Thank you, Ben.  
(beat)  
Slightly underdone, don't you think?

BEN  
That's really funny.

HOST  
I'm not implying that your disability had anything to do with it, though.

BEN  
What?

HOST  
Because here on our network, we believe in "abled" people, not "disabled".

BEN  
What the hell are you talking about, man?

Ben just shrugs.

BEN  
Skylar, why don't you bring your dish up here?

Skylar also brings his domed plate over to Graham. Graham lifts it, revealing a mac and cheese TV dinner. Graham scratches his neck, confused.

(CONTINUED)

HOST

Right. Skylar. Tell us what happened.

SKYLAR

Uh, I accidentally read the box wrong. It said to put it in for ninety seconds and I only put it in for sixty--

HOST

--No, I mean, what happened to YOUR mac and cheese? This is store bought.

SKYLAR

Oh. Uh, well, Chef...I just, uh...

(beat)

I just...forgot my recipe. I guess.

Skylar looks back at his assistants and they wink and giggle as if acknowledging an inside joke. Graham shakes his head. Digs in. Takes a bite.

HOST

(hands him fork)

Just taste that for me right there.

SKYLAR

(refusing)

It's alright, man. I trust you.

HOST

(sticking fork in his face)

Yeah, just go ahead and taste that for me.

SKYLAR

No, thanks, Chef.

HOST

Just go ahead and try a bit of that, mate.

SKYLAR

No.

Skylar just stands there, as Graham edges the fork closer and closer to him.

HOST

Here comes the mac and cheese train, lad. You better open up to let it in.

(CONTINUED)

(moves fork)  
Choo. Choo.

Skylar slowly opens his mouth and Graham deposits the forkful in.

HOST  
What are your thoughts?

Skylar takes a long moment to finish chewing.

SKYLAR  
I think it's OK.

HOST  
You think it's OK.  
(beat)  
Well, I think it's shite.

SKYLAR  
OK.

HOST  
Tasteless. Bland. Soggy--

SKYLAR  
(annoyed)  
--Yeah. Yeah. I get it, bro.

HOST  
Don't get tough with me just  
because you made shite mac and  
cheese, lad.

SKYLAR  
(scoffs)  
As if you could do any better.

HOST  
Scuse' me?

SKYLAR  
I said "As if you could do any  
better".

Graham let's out a cynical chuckle.

HOST  
I can, and I did. That's why I'm  
standing here, and you're standing  
there, lad.

SKYLAR

Give me a \*BLEEP\*ing break, man.  
You're a phoney. You're not even  
\*BLEEP\*ing British.

An awkward pause.

HOST

Sorry, did you just say I'm not  
British--

SKYLAR

--Bro, just drop the \*BLEEP\*ing  
act, alright?

(beat)

Why are you acting like you didn't  
tell me your name is Jimmy Thomas  
and you're from Miami, in the green  
room?

Graham starts sweating, let's a nervous laugh slip, and  
looks around at the camera.

HOST

Excuse me? Miami?

(beat)

I'm from Sheffield, England, lad.  
No clue what you're talking about.

SKYLAR

(mocking)

*Excuse me! Miami?!*

(beat)

You learn that accent at the  
Shakespeare Academy, Bill?

Graham motions for the cameras to cut.

SKYLAR

Yeah. Gig is up, dude. Your posh  
little bull\*BLEEP\*t is up.

HOST

Alright, well on that note, our  
judges have decided that Ben is  
actually our winner for tonight.

The credits start rolling.

HOST

Imagine that. A blind man.  
Overcoming adversity. And it  
happened right here on our network,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HOST (cont'd)  
because that's what we are - a  
tolerant and inclusive network.

(beat)

Now, thanks to our sponsors, AT&T,  
Halliburton, and Bombardier.

CREDITS ROLL.