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Food Network, Cooking Channel serving up a new shows

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Hungry for more food-centric shows that don't involve cakes? There's a hefty offering of selections coming soon to Food Network and Cooking Channel, a new network for foodies from Scripps Networks Interactive that launches May 31.

Here's what to expect in prime time from Food Network:

"Cupcake Wars": It's the battle of the cupcake. In each episode, four of the country's top cupcake bakers will face off in a series of challenges testing their creativity, flavors and presentation, for a chance to present their cupcakes at a major event. (June 18)

"24 Hour Restaurant Battle": Hosted by chef and restaurateur Scott Conant, each episode features competing teams of aspiring restaurateurs who have 24 hours to conceive, plan and open their own restaurants for one night. Once opened, diners will be served along with Scott and a rotating panel of judges (restaurant marketer, restaurant reviewer and restaurant investor). The winning team receives \$10,000 in seed money toward opening their own restaurant. (July)

"Kid in a Candy Store": The show travels cross-country to find the "best, most



outrageous, most innovative, and also most loved sweet treats in the world."
(July)

"Food Trucks": Tyler Florence hosts as seven teams of the country's best food truck cooks hit the road to see who can sell the most food in the challenge city.
(Aug. 15)

And the network sees the return of fan favorites "The Next Iron Chef: Season Three," "Worst Cooks in America: Season 2" and "The Next Food Network Star: Season 7."

If that doesn't get you full, check out the fresh offerings over at Cooking Channel.

Here's a sampling of what to expect:

"Unique Eats": This series spotlights what's extreme in food today. And there's no limit on the location -- everywhere from high-end establishments to neighborhood favorites and even roaming eateries with no permanent address.
(May 31)

"Drink Up!": Hosted by Darryl Robinson, a.k.a. "Dr. Mixologist," of the Hudson Hotel in New York City, the show gives viewers a look at how today's creative and complex cocktails got their start. (May 31)

"Cook Like an Iron Chef": Iron Chef Michael Symon teaches viewers the skills and techniques needed to cook like an Iron Chef. (July)

The channel will also spotlight old favorites in its "Classic Cooking Block," which will feature Julia Child and "Gallopig Gourmet." (June)

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