

# Shakin' and Bakin' To the Beat

Three New Yorkers hit pots & pans to enjoy their labor of love — cooking

It's no surprise that New Yorkers from all walks of life are into food, considering the amazing array of eats available here — from trendy upscale restaurants to authentic ethnic street fare.

Whether cooking is a part-time hobby or a full-fledged career, this city lets you exercise your taste buds in mostly unexpected ways. Still, considering the day jobs of these not-so-average Gothamites, you'd think food would be the last thing on their minds. Well, think again.



LISA G.

Lisa G. calls herself the Betty Crocker of Hip Hop, and it's easy to see why. For the past five years, she's been both a serious baker and a deejay for Hot 97-FM's morning show along with Ed Lover and Dr. Dre. And while you may not make a connection between those media and culinary passions, Lisa does.

"Being a radio personality is a very creative job, and so is baking," she offers, adding that deadline stress affects both. "You have a couple of minutes to be funny, and it's the same with baking: The cookie is cooling and you've got to ice it now."

You better believe Lisa knows from kitchen pressure. Last weekend she hosted her sixth annual Fall Desserts Extravaganza for 100 media and food types. She bakes 20 different pastries from scratch — from vanilla cupcakes with buttercream and coconut frosting to chocolate-chip cheesecake squares.

"Most of it I just dream up in my head," the petite blond says of her secret recipes, though her figure would seem to indicate she's never sampled a single one. "I find that men like the chocolaty gooey stuff, while women always want fruit salad — they put it on the corners of their plates along with all the fattening stuff."

Though she begins prepping two weeks in advance, Lisa admits that the two days prior to the party are "pretty nuts. Maybe it's just a New Yorker thing, but I enjoy living on the edge — both in the kitchen and on the microphone."

Starting out at her high school radio station as Lisa Glasberg, the aspiring deejay truncated her name to Lisa G. because she hated spelling it out for everyone. She recently left Hot 97 and will now be an entertainment correspondent for CBS TV and radio. Though she says she's not able to discuss other upcoming projects, she swears she won't be opening a pastry cafe.

"If anything, I'm thinking about doing a line of food products that I could sell over a Web site," Lisa muses. "It's a natural extension of who I am as a media personality. Howard Stern doesn't have to be the only one."

**AN ENTERTAINING PERSONALITY:** Lisa G. hosts her annual dessert party, left. Next page: Navia Nguyen at her lower East Side diner, and "Chicken Man" Leonard Thomas at his Times Square book-promotion barbecue.

JONATHAN BARTH