

Cupcake connoisseur to appear on network

By Julie Mastrine
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When Sugar on Top owner Shaunda Lohse opened her cupcake boutique in State College last June, she never thought the Food Network would come knocking just two months later.

"It was a dream come true," she said. "I get tongue-tied and overwhelmed a bit just talking about it because nobody's dreams ever really come true. You always see someone else's dreams coming true, but you never think, 'Hey, this is going to happen to me.'"

Lohse, a resident of State College who calls herself a "Food Network addict," heard about the station's show "Cupcake Wars"

before she had even opened her bakery at 121 1/2 E. Beaver Ave., but was determined to be a part of the show from the start.

The show is a competition among four of "the country's top cupcake bakers," according to the show's website. The contestants are eliminated after three cupcake-baking challenges, one of which involves making a cupcake based on an odd ingredient. The winner is awarded \$10,000 and the chance to have his or her cupcakes featured at a major Hollywood event. Lohse will be featured on an episode of the show that will air in January.

Last year, Lohse sent the show's producers an audition tape she had filmed on her iPhone, but

was disappointed when they didn't call her back, she said.

"I just thought it wasn't meant to happen," she said.

But Lohse got another call from the network this August, two months after Sugar on Top's opening.

Lohse said she was skeptical at first — when the caller said they were a producer for "Cupcake Wars," she hung up on them.

But the caller was the real deal. The producer told Lohse that when someone posted a comment on the show's Facebook page praising her sweet treats, they decided to give her a call. Soon Lohse was on her way to California to compete in the show. Though the other contestants

were more experienced than she was, Lohse said the experience was still "surreal."

But winning was not her motivation to be on the show.

"I didn't go in it to win, and I didn't expect to win," Lohse said. "I jumped at the opportunity because I started this business with no money, and I'd have to spend a lot of money to get the exposure that 'Cupcake Wars' is going to bring."

Some students said Sugar on Top is worthy of being on the Food Network because of its uniqueness.

"Cupcake boutiques are almost like a trend now, and a lot of them are really dressed up with fancy interiors and boxes," said Kate

Thompson (freshman-anthropology and creative writing), who visited the shop when her ENGL 050H (Introduction to Creative Writing) class met there. "This is just cozier. Cupcakes are the best comfort food, and I'm just comfortable here."

ENGL 050H professor Sheila Squillante said Sugar on Top has just the right atmosphere.

"I think cupcakes should be kid-friendly — they need to be the right size. They need to be yummy and tasty and not dry and falling apart," said Squillante, associate director of the MFA program in creative writing. "This is a place I'll come back to with my kids."

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Audiences delight in 'Horror'

By Courtney Warner
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Audience members took a jump to the left and then a step to the right Friday night during Love and Light Productions' version of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

More than 100 employees and audience members packed the Arena Bar and Grill, 1521 Martin St., for the premiere of the Richard O'Brien musical.

Ryan Sebring, narrator of the performance, warned the audience it was "about to see a show that encases sexual perversion, decadence and carnal desires."

Alicia Starr, who began the acting troupe, performed as Magenta.

"It's going to be a great season this Halloween — it's our first show and we already sold this one out," Starr said.

The show began with inviting first-time attendees, called Rocky Horror virgins, to the stage and spanking them, to symbolize their initiation into the cult classic.

The performance, like the movie, was openly sexual, with scenes including body groping, sexual simulations and innuendoes.

Spectators sitting at the bar



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian

Love & Light Productions performs "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at the Arena Bar and Grill on Friday night.

were able to see cast members up close as they waited to enter their scenes in the crowd. A black-caped, red eyelashed Dr. Frank-N-Furter was visible as he prepared to make his entrance.

Audience members were invited to buy refreshments during a "pause while Frank gets into Rocky's drawers."

Coty Mull, 20, of DuBois, said he enjoyed the performance — especially the "Sweet Transvestite" number because Frank-N-Furter is his favorite character. He said his favorite element of the performance was the costumes.

Taylor Suhre (junior-psychology and religious studies) said it was her first time seeing the show performed live. She said she enjoyed when the audiences shouted out callbacks and threw props at the actors.

When Janet's character put

paper over her head to avoid rain during the song "There's a Light," the audience did the same. Spectators also wore party hats, threw confetti after the wedding scene and rattled noisemakers when told to do so.

The audience danced to songs like "Eddie's Teddy" and a slow version of "Science Fiction Double Feature."

Suhre said her favorite part of the performance was Rocky's body. Other audience members thought the same, cheering when Rocky donned a bejeweled Speedo and chains. As Frank-N-Furter said, Rocky "carried the Atlas seal of approval."

The crowd went wild when Frank-N-Furter performed "Don't Dream It. Be It," a song of embracing sexuality as he talked about how he always wanted to dress up like a girl and love himself.

A capella groups perform medleys

By Sarah Becks
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Though it was the Friday night before a football game on Halloween weekend, more than 300 people attended an A cappella showcase.

The Dreamers, a campus A cappella group, hosted the "A Cappella Sampler" featuring nine A cappella groups at Penn State.

Ashley Kelley (senior-management) has been going to the A cappella samplers for the last five years and used to be a member of The Leading Tones, she said.

Friday saw the biggest turnout she has seen at any A cappella sampler, Kelley said.

The groups performed songs from the 1960s like "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Diana Ross and modern hits like "Whatever You Like" by T.I.

The audience was also treated with medleys that combined multiple songs into one piece of music.

Medleys included "We Danced Anyway" by Deana Carter and "Free Fallin'" by Tom Petty from the singers of Savoir-Faire and "Love the Way You Lie" by Eminem, "Airplanes" by B.o.B and "Don't Lie" by The Black Eyed Peas from The Pennharmonies.

A cappella group Shades of Blue

also did a medley of "In My Head" by Jason Derulo and "Break Your Heart" by Taio Cruz.

There were also remakes of popular songs like "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" from "The Lion King" and "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz, for which the group Rhythm of Faith changed the lyrics to convey a religious message.

No matter what kind of music was played, the audience applauded in support.

Each group was able to perform for about 10 to 12 minutes.

"I was really happy with the audience with how they supported all the groups," Elizabeth Walker (sophomore-animal science) said.

"I was surprised at how many A cappella groups there were," Ellie Game (sophomore-secondary education) said.

Many groups used a variety of music and showcased a "spectrum" of talent, she said.

The Dreamers used humor in its performance, with members throwing in jokes like "You are about to hear a white Jewish boy rap" before going into a medley of "Whatever You Like" and "Love the Way You Lie."

For coverage of Oriana, another A cappella concert, visit us online: www.collegian.psu.edu

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