



# BIO

Shanita McAfee-Bryant, also known as 'Chef Shanita,' is one of Kansas City's most celebrated and treasured chefs. Hailing from a family of culinary creatives and history buffs, Shanita's story embraces a love of her home city, its history and culture; a passion for all things culinary; unimaginable struggle, determination and inspiring work ethic; and always, at the core of every goal she sets for herself, every obstacle overcome, every success achieved - her family.

The year was 2014; the show, none other than Food Network's Cut Throat Kitchen. As viewers watched with anticipation, it became apparent that the young chef from Kansas City might win. Her talent was evident, but so was her strong culinary foundation and experience. A seasoned chef with extensive training appeared to be on the verge of potential victory. At that age, she witnessed the power of creativity and cooking. Her father brought the creativity and her mother brought the love of historic traditions. Combining the two, Chef Shanita realized that she could still make traditional dishes but could add creativity to them by modernizing these dishes. Her passion for cooking began to ignite a fire in the heart of Chef Shanita and it soon became obvious of her purpose in life.

Raised by a culinary creative for her father, and influenced by her mother's love of historic traditions, Shanita's passion was ignited at the tender age of thirteen. It is these same traits, talents and interests that formed the building blocks of what would become an internationally-recognized career for our beloved Chef Shanita. Her innovative ability to formulate phenomenal recipes and exquisite dishes developed from watching her family master the kitchen, and as a teenager living in the pre-cooking-show era, Shanita explored her culinary inquisitive side and fueled her passion by studying countless recipe books and cooking manuals she would rent from the local library, before taking classes offered at her high school to help prepare her for competitive cooking.

With a clear and promising path ahead of her, Shanita would soon find herself facing an all-together different course from the one she had envisioned. Becoming a young mother while still attending high school, Shanita found that, while her juggling an education, a child and a passion she longed to pursue was proving to be quite a challenge, it was not the time to lay her dreams to the side. Driven by sheer determination, Shanita embraced her love for cooking and eventually enrolled in culinary school at a local community college - her family, mentor, and cooking instructor, supporting and encouraging her to pursue her dreams and take her talent to the next level.





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FOOD IS ONLY TRULY  
WONDERFUL WHEN  
YOU CAN TASTE THE  
LOVE PUT INTO IT

CHEF SHANITA MCAFFEE BRYANT



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During culinary school, a major opportunity was afforded to Chef Shanita, when she was asked to audition for an elite culinary team that would compete against other teams to earn prestigious awards and accolades. At the same time, Chef Shanita also began assisting at her family restaurant, which provided her the experience of serving food. Her dedication to both tasks, while raising her children, strengthened Chef Shanita in ways she had never before imagined. She mastered culinary school and graduated from JCCC Culinary Program and a Chef apprenticeship. This was only the beginning for her.

While focusing on expanding her knowledge and honing her culinary talents, Chef Shanita was encouraged to audition to be on Food Network's competitive cooking show, Cut Throat Kitchen. Relying on her strong foundations and extensive experience, Shanita found the courage to pursue this incredible opportunity. Drawing on her skills, knowledge and sheer passion, not only did Shanita participate, but she conquered. In 2014, viewers from across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and beyond, witnessed the phenomenal Chef Shanita slay her fellow competitors for the title of Top Chef on the internationally-renowned Cut Throat Kitchen.

Following her epic win on Cut Throat Kitchen, Chef Shanita decided to focus her passion for cooking on a more intimate level, as she explored the many highlights of the culture and history of her hometown, Kansas City. It is here that her innovative talents truly took off. Having worked and assisted her family with their restaurant for some time, Shanita decided to yet again take the road less travelled, as she created and cultivated the concept of the very first Magnolia's food truck. Embracing local traditional dishes with a modern flare, the Magnolia's food truck is now a favourite among KC's culinary enthusiasts.



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With over 20 + years in the culinary industry, Shanita continues to create, embrace and inspire her local community and beyond, one delicious dish at a time.

From a young girl of 13, with a passion for cooking to an international success, Chef Shanita plans to expand her passion for cooking by educating and inspiring young culinary creatives throughout the U.S. and beyond through her motivational cooking episodes (soon to appear on Youtube). Chef Shanita is also currently working on a historic cookbook, where she will explore and highlight classic and modern Kansas City dishes.

Chef Shanita is a wonderful example of how dedication and determination in the midst of setback can lead to success. She strives to empower those around her by showing them that if they put their mind to do what they dream of, their dreams will become a reality. To those aspiring to be a chef in this competitive world, Chef Shanita has some words of advice:

"Do what you have to do for you. What someone else does, is none of your business. Be 100% authentically yourself at all times, and if all else fails.....just keep swimming".

- Chef Shanita McAfee-Bryant



# BRANDS

We invite you to discover the brands created under Chef Shanita's stewardship - from packaged spice blends to catering, fabulous food truck dishes to private events, our beloved chef has truly created a taste for every occasion.

## CHEF SHANITA

The Glamorous Life - Professional Chef, Wife, Mother.

Join Chef Shanita as she embarks upon a new role - that of educator and instructor, as she endeavours to teach and inspire young chefs and culinary greats across the miles with her YouTube tutorials, lifestyle blog, culinary classes and beyond.

Celebrate the spirit of Chef Shanita's many creations with her new line of merchandise - including t-shirts, tea towels, tote bags, and more!

## MAGNOLIA'S ON THE MOVE

At Magnolia's on the Move we celebrate the South's world-famous culinary tradition with highly flavorful recipes that are rooted in seasonal freshness and ethnic diversity. Enjoy a pop-up event near you!

## MAGNOLIA'S AT THE CASTLE

Chef Shanita's famous southern cuisine takes on new life in a unique and historic 111-year-old castle, located in beautiful Shawnee.

Constructed in 1907 by dairy farmer, Remi Caenen, this masterpiece was designed with Belgian and French influences, the limestone being quarried by hand by its skilled owner.

The Castle is where your guests seat is designed to parallel your events concept with the taste to match. We aim to accompany your special event with a impact to each guest senses.



# MEDIA

THINK KC: <http://thinkkc.com/life/creative-crossroads/profile/shanita-mcafee-bryant>

HONEST COOKING: <http://honestcooking.com/culinary-travel-eat-eat-kansas-city/>

KANSAS CITY STAR: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLsaBOdO6s0>

FEAST MAGAZINE: [http://www.feastmagazine.com/the-feed/kansas\\_city\\_news/article\\_0818b7a8-83e7-11e5-9d83-77e56ee0bf69.html](http://www.feastmagazine.com/the-feed/kansas_city_news/article_0818b7a8-83e7-11e5-9d83-77e56ee0bf69.html)

THE RECOMMENDED DAILY: <http://www.recommendeddaily.co/chef-shanita-mcafee-goes-knives-out-on-cut-throat-kitchen-sept-14/>

THE HYPE MAGAZINE: <https://www.thehypemagazine.com/2018/06/what-happens-when-kansas-citys-finest-visits-new-york-city/>

