***Lidia Celebrates America: Changemakers***

**Host Lidia Bastianich Shares Stories of Chefs, Farmers and Entrepreneurs Helping to Rechart the Future of Food in America, from Increased Access to Produce to Edible Insects**

**Hour-Long Special Premieres Tuesday, November 26, at 9pm ET on PBS**

**(Check Local Listings)**

****

[Trailer](https://wgbh.cimediacloud.com/r/nHPfuwAkQBKq)

[Download Episodic Images](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/osnwa1io1zqsu7q2qy4s6/ABCkNjsOJT_HJElmP_HAAuc?rlkey=jqpyxveoybzyce9l7tqmi9fsx&e=1&st=siborg4c&dl=0)

NEW YORK (October 15, 2024) – In her upcoming PBS special, internationally renowned chef, author, and restaurateur Lidia Bastianich throws a national spotlight on progressive chefs, farmers and entrepreneurs around the U.S. striving to change the future of food – whether by increasing local access to produce, creating communities that teach people to grow vegetables, reviving indigenous ingredients for healthful Native cuisine, or introducing the American palate to sustainable ingredients such as insects. Hosted by Bastianich, ***Lidia Celebrates America: Changemakers*** - the latest installment in the three-time James Beard Award-winning and Emmy-nominated ***Lidia Celebrates America*** series - airs beginning Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 9:00 pm ET on PBS (check local listings).

In this hourlong special produced by public media leader GBH and funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Lidia travels from Minneapolis (MN) and Stockton (CA) to Inglewood (CA) and Middletown (VA), to visit those who work hard to change the availability of healthy food in their communities and to alter the way we perceive food in America. “In *Changemakers*, I meet with inspiring and passionate Americans who are trying to improve our lives by helping us attain better access to nutritious food, and by re-connecting us with nature and our environment,” Bastianich said.

Born in Pula, a small city on the southern tip of the Istrian Peninsula in present-day Croatia, Bastianich grew up in a poor community where food was scarce. When it came to cooking and eating, she and her neighbors demonstrated a remarkable spirit of ingenuity and of sharing. Resourcefulness remains a fundamental part of who Lidia is today, a chef bolstered by the belief that food is increasingly being wasted, and increasingly scarce. *Lidia Celebrates America: Changemakers* follows Bastianich on her 13th journey across America as she meets up with everyday Americans who are reimagining what the future of food could look like.

“Our approach to food needs to be increasingly rooted in using local and available products, cooked with less waste,” she said. “With 1.3 billion tons of food going to waste each year, that’s enough food to feed two billion people.” Lidia is intent on getting out the critical message that when we waste food, we also waste all the energy and water it takes to grow, harvest, transport, and package it. “We need to take steps toward ensuring a more secure food future for everyone, and we need to do it now.”

“We feel privileged that such forward-thinking individuals shared their stories, their passion, and their vision for change with us. Together, they are united in charting a new path for the future of food, and inspiring others to do the same,” said Laurie Donnelly, GBH executive producer of National Lifestyle Programming.

Individual stories featured in ***Lidia Celebrates America: Changemakers***:

In **Minneapolis, MN**, Lidia meets with James Beard award-winning chef and restaurateur Sean Sherman at his most recent undertaking, The Indigenous Food Lab Market – a teaching kitchen and market for indigenous foods, and also at his upscale restaurant, Owamni, which focuses on Indigenous food, flavor and culture. Sean serves Lidia dishes filled with ingredients and flavors unique to his heritage, such as smoked bison, tepary beans, mushroom tacos, and wild rice.

Also in **Minneapolis, MN**, Claire and Chad Simons strive to make edible insects more accessible to the American palate with their company, 3 Cricketeers. Insects represent sustainable protein and are consumed by 2 billion people worldwide. After stopping by the popular “Great Minnsect Show” at the University of Minnesota, Lidia visits the 3 Cricketeers’ test kitchen to taste-test a new pasta made with cricket powder and cricket pesto.

In **Middletown, VA**, chef Kari Rushing is on a mission to change America’s perception of Appalachian cuisine. Her restaurant, Vault & Cellar, marries the resourcefulness of Appalachia – making do with what you have - with the refinement of fine dining. In the special, Kari prepares cabbage steak and “rabbit food,” incorporating rabbit, braised greens and roasted carrots.

In **Stockton, CA**, Lidia visits Patricia Miller, who works with Centre Plate LLC helping to run an aggregated CSA for local farmers that grows healthy food and educates families with recipes and container farming instructions. She is also co-founder of the Black Urban Farmers Association (BUFA) of Stockton.

In **Inglewood, CA**, Lidia volunteers to distribute fresh produce with the Social Justice Learning Institute, which strives to improve access to healthy foods across Inglewood by delivering free produce to pop-up markets, schools, and medical clinics. Every Friday, SJLI brings produce to their distribution center, giving away up to 15,000 pounds of produce to community food banks, churches, non-profits and individuals.

The special closes with a final celebratory meal at Sean Sherman’s Owamni, where Lidia and the changemakers unite and sample a diverse array of dishes, with each incorporating forward-thinking ingredients selected wisely, used resourcefully, and with the planet in mind.

This November 26, join Lidia on an unforgettable journey to celebrate Americans making a difference across the country, when ***Lidia Celebrates America: Changemakers*** airs on PBS stations (check local listings) and streams on [PBS.org](http://www.pbs.org/), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/pbs) and the PBS app, available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

**Series Description**

***LIDIA CELEBRATES AMERICA*** is a lively exploration of the rich diversity of cultures across the United States, and the vibrant ethnic and religious customs and traditions observed by various groups—in which food is a common denominator that connects all human beings. Previous programs have focused on the different ways Americans celebrate weddings, holiday traditions, independence, and life’s milestones. The most recent specials pay tribute to America’s heartland and the charming rural communities that also hold thriving new immigrant communities. Two specials have earned special distinction, winning the prestigious James Beard Award. Both programs honor U.S. troops by celebrating the ways in which veteran farmers continue to give back to our country. For more program information, visit the website [pbs.org/lidiacelebratesamerica](http://www.pbs.org/lidiacelebratesamerica). To view recipes featured in the series, go to PBS Food: [pbs.org/food](http://www.pbs.org/food). ***Lidia Celebrates America***series DVDs, *Best of Lidia: Pastas* DVD, *Mastering the Art of Italian Cuisine* cookbook and more are available at shoppbs.org. Every purchase supports PBS.

For images and additional up-to-date information on this and other PBS programs, visit PBS Press Room at [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom).

To download recipes, watch video previews, and view behind-the-scenes images and stories, go to [pbs.org/lidiacelebratesamerica](http://pbs.org/lidiacelebratesamerica).

**PRODUCTION CREDITS:**

Underwriter: Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Producers: GBH, Five O’Clock Films LLC and Tavola Productions

Executive producers: Lidia Bastianich and Laurie Donnelly

***Lidia Celebrates America: Changemakers*** is a production of GBH Boston and Tavola Productions. Lidia Bastianich is host. Executive Producers are Lidia Bastianich and Laurie Donnelly. Funding for ***Lidia Celebrates America: Changemakers*** is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

**About Lidia Bastianich**

Lidia Bastianich is an award-winning public television host, best‐selling cookbook author, successful restaurateur, celebrated chef and owner of a flourishing food and entertainment business. She has created Daytime Emmy**®** Award-winning cooking programs over the last 25 years, including *Lidia’s Kitchen, Lidia’s Family Table, Lidia’s Italy* and *Lidia’s Italy In America*, as well as the three-time James Beard Award-winning series *Lidia Celebrates America*. Along with her television series, Bastianich has published numerous cookbooks, co-authored with her daughter, Tanya. Her most recent book is *Lidia’s From Our Family Table to Yours,*which was released in October 2023, a companion to her new 26-part public television series, *Lidia’s Kitchen.* She is also the author of the English and Italian version of her memoir: *My American Dream: A Life of Love, Family, and Food*. Together with Tanya and son-in-law Corrado, she also developed a line of all-natural sauces called LIDIA’S. In March 2023, she released a line of cookware with HSN. Bastianich is a member of Les Dames D’Escoffier and founding member of Women Chefs and Restaurateurs, two non-profit organizations of women leaders in the food and hospitality industries. She is also a champion for the United Nations Association of the United States of America’s Adopt-A-Future program, in support of refugee education. Among the numerous awards and accolades Bastianich has earned include seven James Beard Awards (Outstanding Chef, Television Food Show, Best Chefs in America, Who’s Who of Food & Beverage in America, Specials 2016, Special 2017 and 2018) and two Emmy Awards for Outstanding Culinary Host (2013 and 2018). In 2022 Bastianich received the Silver Award from APT for 25 years on public television, and in 2024 she received the Lifetime Achievement Honor at the 51st Annual Daytime Emmy**®** Awards.

**About Tavola Productions**

Founded by Lidia Bastianich, Tavola Productions, an entertainment company that produces award-winning broadcast productions of quality, including *Lidia’s Kitchen, Lidia’s Family Table, Lidia’s Italy*, and *Lidia’s Italy in America.*

**About GBH**

GBH is the leading multiplatform creator for public media in America. As the largest producer of content for PBS and partner to NPR and PRX, GBH delivers compelling experiences, stories, and information to audiences wherever they are. GBH produces digital and broadcast programming that engages, illuminates, and inspires through drama and science, history, arts, culture and journalism. It is the creator of such signature programs as *Masterpiece, Antiques Roadshow, Frontline, Nova, American Experience*, *Arthur* and *Molly of Denali*, and a catalog of streaming series, podcasts, and on-demand video. GBH’s television channels include GBH 2, GBH 44, GBH Kids and national services World, and Create. With studios and a newsroom headquartered in Boston, GBH reaches across New England with GBH 89.7, Boston’s Local NPR; CRB Classical 99.5; and CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR station. Dedicated to making media accessible to and inclusive of our diverse culture, GBH is a pioneer in delivering media to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired. GBH creates curriculum-based digital content for educators nationwide with PBS LearningMedia and has been recognized with hundreds of the nation’s premier broadcast, digital and journalism awards. Find more information at gbh.org.

**About CPB**  
The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private, nonprofit corporation authorized by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government’s investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than 1,500 locally managed and operated public television and radio stations nationwide. CPB is also the largest single source of funding for research, technology and program development for public radio, television, and related online services. For more information, visit [cpb.org](https://www.cpb.org/), follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CorporationForPublicBroadcasting/) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/corporation-for-public-broadcasting/) and [subscribe](http://www.cpb.org/subscribe) for email updates.

**About PBS**  
[PBS](http://www.pbs.org/), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 36 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 16 million users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, 53 million viewers on YouTube, and 60 million people view PBS content on social media, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs and to take front-row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’s broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to [PBS LearningMedia](http://pbslearningmedia.org/) for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. As the number one educational media brand, [PBS KIDS](http://pbskids.org/) helps children 2-8 build critical skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality content on TV — including a PBS KIDS channel — and streaming free on [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org/)and the [PBS KIDSVideo app](https://pbskids.org/apps/pbs-kids-video.html), games on the [PBS KIDS Games app](https://pbskids.org/apps/pbs-kids-games.html), and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](http://pbs.org/), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pbs), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/pbs/?hl=en), or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](http://www.pbs.org/anywhere/home/). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pressroom.pbs.org/) or by following [PBS Communications on X.](https://twitter.com/PBS_PR)

# # #

Contacts:

Chris Roslan / Eddie Ward

Roslan & Associates PR

212-966-4600

[chris@rc-pr.com](mailto:chris@rc-pr.com) / [eddie@rc-pr.com](mailto:eddie@rc-pr.com)