



### **Synopsis:**

Constance is a 40-year old professor with a cooking problem. Rather than use her PhD to pay off her crippling student loans, she slings cocktails and dreams of hosting a cooking show featuring New York artists in her tiny Chelsea apartment. Will Constance's culinary quest lead to a recipe for life, or will she fall flat on her face like a bad soufflé?

With actual recipes after each episode!

### **Cast:**

**Constance Zaytoun** as Constance Mansour, our protagonist

**Marc Stuart Weitz** as Marc Stewart, her partner

**Marylouise Burke** (*The Mist*) as Constance's PhD dissertation advisor and mentor

**Lynne Marie Rosenberg** (*High Maintenance*) as Lisa Roberts, Constance's scholarly nemesis

**Matthew Lawler** (*Chappaquiddick*, ABC's *The Family*) as the arresting police officer

**Isiah Whitlock, Jr.** (*The Wire*, *The Good Cop*) as himself

### **Crew:**

**Rosalie Tenseth**, Director

**Jamal Solomon**, Director of Photography

**Eliane Amherd**, Original Music

**Jason Whitaker**, Production Design/Animation

**Brent Katz**, Editor

**Richard Kim**, Line Producer

**David Domedion**, Culinary Producer (Food Network's *The Pioneer Woman*)

**ConstanceCooks.com**

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### **No Ordinary Show**

Constance Cooks is a single camera comedy crossed with a cooking show that loosely reflects the real life of actor and host, Constance Zaytoun, PhD. We follow the trials and tribulations of Constance Mansour as she seeks out what's hip and new on the food scene in NY for her web show. But is she too out of step with Millennials to find what she's looking for?

At the end of each narrative episode, Constance demonstrates - using time-lapse filming - an actual recipe that gives a surprise twist to her original plan. Her classic taste and old-school techniques provide an antidote to the humiliations she endures on her quest.

### **Festivals**



**2018 ITV Fest Network Notes**





### **Constance Zaytoun (co-creator, lead)**

You may have seen Constance asking how she can “unfriend” her new best friends “stress, hot flashes, and mood swings” in the Menopause Monologues commercial for Estroven Stress, Mood & Memory, or you may have seen her as the drunk aunt in an IKEA commercial, or you may have heard her as the voice of Repatha. She was also last seen on the New York stage as the very pregnant Anna and her imaginary child-genius Cecil in the Off-Broadway production of Paula Vogel’s *And Baby Makes Seven* (“**Ms. Zaytoun indulges in a comic tour de force!**” –NYT). Her performance moved Paula to say, “**Constance’s ability to perform with intelligence and without restriction is remarkable to see on stage.**”

Constance adores teaming-up creatively with her partner in life and in crime, Marc Stuart Weitz. Together with their theatre company, Purpleman, they’ve presented new works by Carson Kreitzer, Jon Marans, Deb Margolin, and Moby Pomerance, and are currently in development to present the premiere production of Campion Decent’s *Ghost Dancing*, a play loosely based on visual artist Judy Chicago’s iconic feminist work *The Dinner Party* and the 1972 Womanhouse Nurturant Kitchen. Gertrude Stein breaks through the floor angry she was not invited to the party, and Lady Gaga is the *deus ex machina*. If it sounds like a wild ride, you’re right! And Constance looks forward to playing the dual role of Chicago/Stein.

Constance grew up in North Carolina, the youngest of nine. Her grandparents emigrated from Lebanon, and she is as comfortable making such Lebanese classics as labneh, babaganoush, and kibbeh, as she is frying chicken or green tomatoes.

A graduate of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA), New York University (MA), and CUNY Graduate Center, where she earned her Ph.D., Dr. Zaytoun (!) taught acting and theatre at NYU, Marymount Manhattan, and Purchase College. She is a published author, and co-authored with Weitz the introductory essay, “What is a Good Play? Thoughts Across Centuries,” for *The Playwright’s Workout*, eds. Dixon and Engelman (Smith & Kraus, 2009). She is a certified associate teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework® and is represented by Don Buchwald & Associates, Abrams Artists, and Ingrid French Management.



**Marc Stuart Weitz (co-creator, recurring)**

Marc Stuart Weitz has been Producing Director for the Obie Award-winning New Ohio Theatre since 2011, having previously produced and directed theater independently in New York City for 13 years.

In addition to producing the New Ohio's many programs, Marc created the NY Indie Theatre Film Festival, a festival devoted to works created by theatre people branching out into film/TV. The festival has honored John Cameron Mitchell and Julie Taymor, and Marc conducted interviews with each of these artists.

As the Artistic Director of Purpleman Theater, his directing credits include the first NYC revival of *And Baby Makes Seven*, by Paula Vogel, and world premieres of *Population: 8*, by Nicholas Gray; *Time is the Mercy of Eternity*, by Deb Margolin (featuring Lisa Kron); *Broken Hands*, by Moby Pomerance (2006 FringeNYC Award

winner); and his own original composition *Days and Nights: Page 121, Lines 11 and 12*, which combined the stories of Chekhov's *The Seagull* and Anne Frank's diary.

Marc graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a BSE in Mechanical Engineering, but decided he didn't want to drive over any bridge that he had built. So he lit out for San Francisco to get an MFA in Acting at the American Conservatory Theatre, where he figured the only trauma he was likely to inflict was in the minds of critics. He has taught workshops in voice, Suzuki Actor Training and the Viewpoints at NYU, Purchase College, Marymount Manhattan, the Old Globe, and others. With Constance Zaytoun, Marc co-authored, "What is a Good Play? Thoughts Across Centuries," for *The Playwright's Workout*, eds. Michael Bigelow Dixon and Liz Engelman (Smith & Kraus, 2009). He is a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab.



## **Crew**

### **Rosalie Tenseth, Director**

Rosalie directed the first season of *After* and is creating #ISITJUSTME for her new comedy channel Happy Martini TV. She produced the film *Self Portrait* with Lyracy Films which just premiered at NY Intl Shorts Fest. Her short, *Failure Groupies*, won several Best Short and Jury Awards and is released on Amazon.

### **David Domedion, Culinary Producer**

Emmy-Award winning producer, culinary producer, food stylist, and recipe writer. *Frontier Woman* (Food Network); *Sandra Lee's Taverns, Lounges and Clubs*; *Worst Cooks In America*

### **Jamal Solomon, Director of Photography**

*Flowers* (HBO); 2014 Zeiss Precision Image Award

### **Richard Kim, Line Producer**

*Moko Jumbie* (LA Film Festival, Winner - Film Independent Canon Filmmaker Award)

### **Eliane Amherd, Original Music**

Singer, guitarist and songwriter Eliane was born in Switzerland and lives in NYC. Her unique sound is jazzy, groovy and rooted in African, Brazilian and Latin music. She has performed as a leader or a featured artist in New York's most famous clubs like SOB's, Subrosa, Blue Note, Nublu, BAM, Brooklyn Bowl, and BB Kings.