



BEHIND THE SCENES

They Will Rock You

Introducing the chefs: In the kitchen or the studio, when they start cooking they bake, rattle, and roll
 By NANETTE MAXIM PHOTOGRAPH by MATTHEW ROLSTON

CHIEFS ARE BECOMING the rock stars of today," says photographer Matthew Rolston. Coming from just about anyone else, that would be a cliché. But Rolston knows a rock star when he sees one, having shot countless musicians for *Rolling Stone* and directed videos for singers from Marilyn Manson to Madonna to Mel G. The man can make a body sing for his camera.

Which is why Rolston is shooting *Gourmet*'s band of chefs playing the tools of their trade, fantastical instruments that production designer Marla Weinhoff created out of tin air and a few trips to Bridge Kitchenware.

This is no pickup band but one that symbolizes what we love about restaurants across the country. When the first wave of great Southwest cooking began, in the 1980s, *Dean Fearing* was there. He still is, and between gigs with his real-life band, the *Harbwire*s, he's made *The Mansion on Turtle Creek*, in Dallas, an established hit. *Eric Ripert*, of Manhattan's *Le Bernardin*, *Suzanne Goin*, of *Lucques* and *A.O.C.*, in Los Angeles, and *Laurent Grise*, of *Fifth Floor*, in San Francisco, represent the best of what's happening in cooking around America right now. And *Scott Conant* is the upstart chef who, with *L'Impassé*, hit the Manhattan restaurant charts with a bullet this year and doesn't appear to be stopping anytime soon.

Fearing struts across the stage, his hair Johnny Cash-slick and his guitar—a fish grill, a spatula, a truffle slicer, and a bunch of pastry tips—slung across his chest. To Led Zeppelin's "Dancing

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The Fab Five, left to right: Laurent Grise, Suzanne Goin, Scott Conant, Eric Ripert, and Dean Fearing. Production design by Marla Weinhoff. Styling by Clotilde (L'Impassé) & Fabrice (Lucques). Makeup by Suzanne Goin for Jessica Harkness for M.A.C. (L'Impassé) Hair by Felix Fischer for Bradley Gray's Consulting by Dig! Hair for Artists by Timothy Phoenix & Lisa at The Wild Group. Special thanks to Bridge Kitchenware.