



CHARLIE

AWARDS

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THE CHARLIE AWARDS

Recognizing the Twin Cities Food & Beverage Community - November 16

Minneapolis (Updated November 6, 2014) --- The fourth annual Charlie Awards, a showcase for our local independent food and beverage community, will be held Sunday, November 16 at the Pantages Theatre (710 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis). The Charlie Awards recognize the exceptional contributions of the Twin Cities metro area restaurant, food and beverage industry, including: restaurants, beverage manufacturers, suppliers, culinary schools, chefs, staff and service, craft brewers, and food trucks.

This year's Charlie Awards will include a trio of tasty events:

- A performance -packed main awards show at the Pantages beginning at 3:30 p.m. hosted by The Salty Tart's Michelle Gayer and WCCO TV's Jamie Yuccas. Entertainment will be provided by:
 - Erin Schwab with the Jay Fuchs Band
 - The Taste Buds – a band led by Steven Brown and composed of members of our local restaurant and bar industry
 - 20 members of the Minnesota Boy Choir performing “Food Glorious Food” from “Oliver!”
- A reception in the IDS Crystal Court, beginning at approximately 5 p.m., will feature sample-size dishes prepared by the culinary students of Art Institutes International Minnesota, Hennepin Technical College, Le Cordon Bleu and the St. Paul College;
- The culmination culinary masterpiece of the day will be the Chefs' Dinner at Windows on Minnesota (50th floor of the IDS) featuring four-courses of menu creations by Charlie Award winners Sameh Wadi (amuse bouche), Lucia Watson (appetizer), Jack Riebel (entrée) and Khan Trahn (dessert). Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. Wine pairings are provided compliments of Trinchero Family Estates.

More than 175 independently owned area establishments are participating in this year's Charlie Awards. All are vying for the two public “Diners' Choice” awards --- Outstanding Menu Item and Outstanding Food Truck. The public voted for their favorite menu item in each of six local neighborhoods as well as for their favorite food truck.

Other awards to be announced at The Charlie Awards include: Lifetime Achievement; Community Hero, Outstanding Chef; Outstanding Emerging Food Professional (a food professional with five years or less of experience); Outstanding Service; Outstanding Restaurant; Outstanding Restaurant Design; Outstanding Pastry Chef; Outstanding Local Craft Brew, Outstanding Beverage Program, and Outstanding Bartender. These awards are chosen by the participating restaurants, food trucks, and breweries.

Tickets for the Charlie Awards are now available online at honorthyfood.com; at the box offices of the State, Orpheum and Pantages theatres; or at any Ticketmaster outlet. The cost for the main show and after-party at the IDS Crystal Court is \$35. The cost for attending all three events (awards show, reception, and Chefs' Dinner) is \$150; with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Open Arms of Minnesota.

Open Arms is the only nonprofit organization in the state that cooks and delivers free meals specifically tailored to meet the nutritional needs of individuals living with life-threatening illnesses.

Sponsors of the Charlie Awards are General Mills, U.S. Foods, Open Table, Bellisio Foods, Intermix Beverage Co., Colle+McVoy, Casa Verde Design, Dynamic Products Midwest, Aviv 613 Vodka, Trinchero Family Estates Winery, Mise en Place Consulting, Wells Fargo, Winthrop & Weinstine, Minnesota Pork Producers Association, Minnesota Restaurant Association, Marquette Hotel, Delta Airlines, *Minnesota Monthly*, Minnesota Public Radio, Mpls2Night, Thousand Hills Cattle Company, Lift Bridge Brewery and G&K Services.

For more information on the 2014 Charlie Awards, please visit honorthyfood.com. Find us on Twitter @CharlieAwards #HonorThyFood or Facebook (CharlieAwards).

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