



Maine Celebrates Two James Beard Award Finalists

Description

On Tuesday, two chefs from Maine became finalists in the 2026 James Beard Awards. This national recognition is important as it highlights the talent in the restaurant industry.

Dana Street, who runs Fore Street, Scales, Standard Baking Co., and Street and Co. in Portland, is a finalist for the Outstanding Restaurateur award. Thomas Takashi Cooke, from Izakaya Minato in Portland, is a finalist for Best Chef: Northeast.

Cooke expressed appreciation for all restaurant owners, stating they all deserve recognition. He believes teamwork is crucial, saying that everyone puts in hard work to create great dishes. He wants people to understand that much effort goes into the restaurant's success.

Street, however, was not available for comment on his nomination. Last year was disappointing, as no Maine semifinalists reached the finalist stage for the first time in over a decade.

Night Moves Bread from South Portland was another semifinalist this year for Outstanding Bakery. Other regional semifinalists included Jeremy Broucek, Chris Gould, Sara Jenkins, and Jake Stevens, all competing for Best Chef: Northeast.

The winners will be announced at the James Beard Award ceremony on June 15 in Chicago. Cooke will miss this event because he is taking his son to see Japan play in the World Cup. Cooke sees this match as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and prioritises it over the awards ceremony.

Vocabulary List:

1. **finalists** //ˈfaɪnəlɪsts// (noun): people chosen for the last part of a contest
2. **recognition** //ˌrɛkəgˈnɪʃən// (noun): public praise or notice for good work
3. **industry** //ˈɪndəstri// (noun): businesses that make or sell similar goods
4. **nomination** //ˌnɒməˈneɪʃən// (noun): official suggestion for someone to win or join
5. **semifinalist** //ˌsemɪˈfaɪnəlɪst// (noun): person who reaches the round before the final
6. **ceremony** //ˈsɛrəˌmoʊni// (noun): formal event to celebrate or announce something

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Who is a finalist for the Outstanding Restaurateur award?
 - Option: Thomas Takashi Cooke
 - Option: Dana Street
 - Option: Jeremy Broucek
 - Option: Sara Jenkins

2. When will the winners of the James Beard Awards be announced?
 - Option: June 14
 - Option: June 15
 - Option: June 16
 - Option: June 20

3. Which restaurant is Thomas Takashi Cooke associated with?
 - Option: Fore Street
 - Option: Izakaya Minato
 - Option: Street and Co.
 - Option: Standard Baking Co.

4. How long has it been since no Maine semifinalists reached the finalist stage?
 - Option: Five years
 - Option: One year
 - Option: Over a decade
 - Option: Two years

5. What is Cooke taking his son to see?
 - Option: A concert
 - Option: A football match
 - Option: The World Cup
 - Option: A movie

6. Night Moves Bread is a semifinalist for which category?
 - Option: Best Chef
 - Option: Outstanding Bakery
 - Option: Outstanding Restaurateur
 - Option: Best New Restaurant



True-False

7. James Beard Awards are only recognized in Maine.
8. Cooke believes that teamwork is essential for restaurant success.
9. Dana Street was available for comment regarding his nomination.
10. All chefs deserve recognition according to Thomas Takashi Cooke.
11. The James Beard Award ceremony will take place in New York.
12. Cooke is prioritizing the awards ceremony over a World Cup match.

Gap-Fill

13. Cooke stated that everyone puts in hard work to create great dishes at the restaurant, which is critical for success in the _____ industry.
14. Last year was disappointing as no Maine semifinalists reached the _____ stage for the first time in over a decade.
15. Cooke will miss the James Beard Award ceremony because he is taking his son to see _____ play in the World Cup.
16. Night Moves Bread from South Portland was a semifinalist for Outstanding _____ this year.
17. The winners of the James Beard Awards will be announced in Chicago on _____ 15.
18. Dana Street runs _____ Street, Scales, Standard Baking Co., and Street and Co.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Dana Street 2. June 15 3. Izakaya Minato 4. Over a decade 5. The World Cup 6. Outstanding Bakery



True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. restaurant 14. finalist 15. Japan 16. Bakery 17. June 18. Fore

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Who are individuals that engage in illegal trade of goods or people?

- Option: Smugglers
- Option: Traffickers
- Option: Sellers
- Option: Distributors

2. What is often held to honor and remember someone who has passed away?

- Option: Celebration
- Option: Memorial
- Option: Rally
- Option: Ceremony

3. What is the term for a gathering of people who have been apart for a long time?

- Option: Reunion
- Option: Ceremony
- Option: Event
- Option: Gathering

4. What do you call a person who campaigns for a cause?

- Option: Activist
- Option: Politician
- Option: Leader
- Option: Supporter

5. What term describes mental or emotional strain?

- Option: Relaxation
- Option: Tension
- Option: Joy
- Option: Calm

6. What do you call the last competitors remaining in a contest?

- Option: Participants
- Option: Winners



- Option: Finalists
- Option: Entrants

7. What type of film tells the life story of a significant person?

- Option: Action
- Option: Documentary
- Option: Biographical
- Option: Fictional

8. What is the process of selecting actors for roles in a project?

- Option: Rehearsing
- Option: Auditioning
- Option: Casting
- Option: Shooting

9. What is the close examination of something termed?

- Option: Review
- Option: Scrutiny
- Option: Oversight
- Option: Survey

10. What word describes the process of bringing back to life or popularity?

- Option: Decline
- Option: Revival
- Option: End
- Option: Completion

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

- 11. The act of _____ someone's trust can lead to deep emotional pain.
- 12. The community organized a _____ to protest against the new law.
- 13. They were _____ their true intentions to achieve their goal.
- 14. In the movie, there is a dramatic _____ that reveals the character's past.
- 15. Her _____ about her abilities often held her back from taking risks.
- 16. The sudden _____ shocked everyone at the meeting.



17. The film was _____ for its lack of character development.
18. He _____ the role of a troubled genius in the drama.
19. Her speech had a _____ impact on the audience.
20. Listening to that song brings a sense of _____ for my childhood.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. An activist fights for social and political change through various forms of advocacy.
22. A memorial serves to honor and remember those who have passed away.
23. Tension often arises in situations of conflict or disagreement.
24. Casting is crucial for ensuring that the right actors bring a script to life.
25. The finalists in the competition were announced with much excitement.
26. Insecurity can lead to a lack of confidence in one's abilities.
27. The revival of the local theater brought back classic performances to the community.
28. A flashback often provides insight into a character's backstory in films.
29. Public figures often face intense scrutiny from the media.
30. The novel's themes offered a profound commentary on human nature.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Traffickers 2. Memorial 3. Reunion 4. Activist 5. Tension 6. Finalists 7. Biographical
8. Casting 9. Scrutiny 10. Revival

Gap-Fill: 11. betraying 12. rally 13. disguising 14. flashback 15. insecurity 16. revelation 17. criticized
18. portrayed 19. profound 20. nostalgia

Matching sentence: 1. activist 2. memorial 3. tension 4. casting 5. finalists 6. insecurity 7. revival 8. flashback
9. scrutiny 10. profound

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL3



POST TAG

1. B1
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. finalists
5. James Beard Award
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