



Chef Marvin Woods

Creative Director/Partner, Trailblazing Productions

Emmy® Award-nominated Television Host, Chef and Author

Marvin Woods is an Emmy® Award-nominated television host, lauded cookbook author and celebrated chef. He is recognized by fans and peers alike by his infectious personality, signature bandanas and his wildly inventive take on food rooted in northern Africa, South America, the Caribbean and the Low Country. Together with Chadwick Boyd and Craig McMahon, Trailblazing Productions offers a complete package of in depth culinary and entertainment experience.

Marvin is a 23-year veteran in the hospitality and restaurant industry. His first big break came when he helped Donald Trump open Harrah's at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City. He then went on to New York City to build an impressive culinary pedigree, starting with The Sea Grill at Rockefeller Center, and then on to the Windows on the World, Helmsley Palace, Quatorze and Arizona 206. He further cultivated his talent in London.

When Marvin took over as Executive Chef at New York's Café Beulah's, he won wide industry acclaim and caught the attention of publishers and television executives. Along with the restaurant accolades, came a book deal with William Morrow. His first effort, "The New Low Country," garnered national media attention, including appearances on *CBS This Morning*, *Discovery Network* and *Lifetime*. *Publisher's Weekly* proclaimed, "Woods' inventiveness makes him a chef to watch!"

With all the industry buzz, Marvin was tapped to lead the kitchens of Savannah Restaurant, The National Hotel, Hollywood Prime at the Westin Diplomat and M. Woods – all in Miami. His food was regularly featured in *O magazine*, *Food & Wine*, *Southern Living* and many more national publications. Oprah declared, "Chef Marvin Woods' dishes are light, sophisticated, exotic!"

In 2000, Marvin caught the attention of executives at Turner South who were looking for new talent for the newly created regional cable network. Marvin was selected to host, *Home Plate*. The show was the perfect vehicle to showcase his charismatic personality and lighter twist on traditional Southern cooking. It was a big hit, regularly attracting more than 7.2 million viewers. *Home Plate* successfully ran for four seasons until the network was acquired by Fox Sports in 2006. The show spawned a second cookbook, *Home Plate Cooking* (Rutledge Hill Press 2004), which was a big success. The book continues to sell on Amazon.com.

Marvin travels internationally for appearances and cooking demonstrations, and consistently draws audiences of 200+. He has made several appearances as a guest chef at the James Beard House, and has served as a featured chef at The Pillsbury Bake Off, the Miami Wine & Food Festival and Charlotte Shout, as well as a judge for The Southern Living Cook Off. Marvin has participated in special promotions and campaigns for Char- Broil, Food Lion Supermarkets, SCANA and Publix, among others.

Currently, Marvin has two new television show projects in development. He has developed a national kids' wellness program called Droppin' Knowledge with Chef Marvin Woods that focuses on a positive way to combat childhood obesity and other children's health issues. Marvin is working on a line of spice blends and sauces for online and retail. Marvin lives in Atlanta with his two kids. More information on Marvin can be found at www.marvinwoods.net.