

Elle Simone Scott

Food Stylist, Culinary Producer, Founder of SheChef

Brooklyn, New York



Elle Simone Scott wants you to play with your food. “Experiment with eating healthfully!” she said. “Don’t dismiss something because you didn’t grow up eating it or you’ve never seen it before. It’s always important to try new things.”

As a food stylist and culinary producer, trying new ideas with food is something she does every day. Scott works with clients to create food that meets the image and standards of their brands. This often requires cooking an item multiple times to achieve the perfect look or creating nontraditional images with food. “I once had to make a man out of waffles. That was interesting. Trying to create a hand shape with batter, using a waffle iron, was a challenge!” she said.

Scott grew up with a love of cooking inherited from her close family. But her career initially took her in a different direction. She was a social worker for

seven years in her hometown of Detroit, Michigan, while moonlighting as a line cook.

When the agency she was employed by lost funding, she decided to turn her passion for cooking into a career. She got a job as a chef on a cruise ship and followed that with a move to New York City to attend culinary school.

“I came to New York with \$200 and two suitcases,” she said. “But taking the risk was worth it. Through school, I won an internship with the Food Network. They then hired me as a freelancer. That was the beginning of my food-styling career.”

Scott’s career came full circle when she started her mentoring program, SheChef. “When I was growing up, I told my mother I wanted to be a chef.

She didn’t discourage me, but she did mention that there are not many women chefs – especially women chefs of color,” Scott said. “She never saw them. And if you don’t see someone like yourself in a career, you don’t believe you belong.”

SheChef helps young women from urban settings understand that they do belong in the culinary arts. It provides mentoring and free business consultations, and it connects participants to volunteer and community resources. There are nearly 150 members in chapters in Detroit, Michigan; New York City; Atlanta, Georgia; and Dallas and Houston, Texas.

“My good fortune makes it my responsibility to support the women I meet; the women who work hard and deserve the chance to style their own careers,” she said.



“No Bahn Mi”: Shiro Miso Flank Steak Lettuce Wraps with Pickled Vegetables

With this creation, Elle Simone Scott plays on the Vietnamese Bahn Mi sandwich. Bahn Mi means “bread” in Vietnamese, but Scott’s twist on the classic dish uses lettuce instead, while keeping the meat and pickled vegetables — hence the name, “No Bahn Mi.”

For recipe, visit AAHCalendar.com/recipes/august.



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– Elle Simone Scott

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1879: Mary Eliza Mahoney graduates from New England Hospital for Women and Children, becoming the first black professional nurse in America.	2 2012: Gabby Douglas becomes the first African American to win an all-around gymnastics gold at the Summer Olympics.	3 1800: Gabriel Prosser leads slave revolt in Richmond, Virginia.	4 1810: Abolitionist Robert Purvis born.	5 1962: Nelson Mandela, South African freedom fighter, imprisoned. He was not released until 1990.	6 1965: President Lyndon B. Johnson signs Voting Rights Act, outlawing literacy test for voting eligibility in the South.
7 1894: Joseph Lee patents a kneading machine.	8 2005: John H. Johnson, founder and publisher of <i>Ebony</i> and <i>Jet</i> magazines, dies.	9 1936: Jesse Owens wins fourth gold medal at Summer Olympics in Berlin.	10 1989: Gen. Colin Powell is nominated chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the first African American to hold this post.	11 1872: Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller, acknowledged as first black psychiatrist, born.	12 1977: Steven Biko, leader of Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa, arrested.	13 1981: Reagan administration undertakes its review of 30 federal regulations, including rules on civil rights to prevent job discrimination.
14 1989: First National Black Theater Festival held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.	15 2015: Julian Bond, activist and former NAACP Board chairman who helped launch the Civil Rights Movement, dies.	16 1922: Author Louis E. Lomax born.	17 1849: Lawyer-activist Archibald Henry Grimké, who challenged the segregationist policies of President Woodrow Wilson, born.	18 1859: Harriet Wilson’s <i>Our Nig</i> is first novel published by a black writer.	19 1954: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche named undersecretary of United Nations.	20 1993: Dr. David Satcher named director of the Centers for Disease Control.
21 1904: Bandleader and composer William “Count” Basie born.	22 1880: Cartoonist George Herriman born.	23 1926: Carter Woodson, historian and author, inaugurates Negro History Week.	24 1853: George “Speck” Crum invents the Saratoga Chip, now known as the potato chip.	25 1925: A. Phillip Randolph founds Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.	26 1946: Composer, singer and producer Valerie Simpson Ashford born.	27 1963: W.E.B. DuBois, scholar, civil rights activist and founding father of the NAACP, dies.
28 1963: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers “I Have A Dream” speech during March on Washington, D.C.	29 1920: Saxophonist Charlie “Bird” Parker born.	30 1983: Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford Jr. becomes the first African American astronaut in space.	31 1836: Henry Blair patents cotton planter.			



We have George Crum to thank for one of the most popular snack foods of all time – the potato chip. He invented the tasty treat in 1853, as head chef at Cary Moon’s Lake House in Lake Saratoga, New York.⁸



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