

Samuel Goldwyn
SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS



**Written, Directed and Produced
by Rock Bajjnauth**

Not Rated
103 Minutes

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SYNOPSIS

Five top baristas find themselves pushing the limits of coffee perfection to win the National Barista Championship – a surreal competition where even one mistake is far too many.

Once a year, thousands of baristas square off in competitions around the U.S., but only one will become the National Champion. **BARISTA** takes viewers on a humorous, emotional and enlightening look into the unimaginable world of coffee competitions and the passionate, lovable and quirky characters who devote their lives to them.

So lemme break down these competitions: You get 15 minutes to prepare three rounds of drinks, twelve drinks in total, for four stoic sensory judges, two technical judges and one head judge. That's right, I said twelve drinks in fifteen minutes. The centerpiece of this event is the signature round where baristas push the limits of their imagination to create a coffee masterpiece that melds together a stellar coffee from the farthest reaches of the globe, out-of-the box ingredients and the wildest preparation methods one could think of.

To do well is to sacrifice. It is to put a passion to succeed ahead of personal relationships. To win is to obsess over every last detail from the way your coffee tastes to what music you're going to play to get judges to take notice (careful with the non-parental guidance Rick Ross tracks). Those who have won will tell you that it's nothing short of life changing. For a barista who takes on the daily grind for very little compensation, winning is more than just a title. It means more money, more respect. It means the chance to open their own shop, or even start their own coffee empire. It's the gold medal. It's everything.

If you think you know coffee – this film will make you think twice. These baristas take this universally beloved beverage seriously. Their passion for it can be felt through every frame of the film. **BARISTA** will take you beyond the drink and shine a light on a unique world very few of us ever knew existed.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

BARISTA was filmed over two years, out of a desire to bring audiences a taste of coffee that they've never had before. Filming took place everywhere from underground competition venues in downtown Los Angeles to the bright lights of the national stage in Boston. It started with us wanting to make a love letter to coffee, a drink that everyone in the crew is obsessed with or at least thought we were obsessed with until we met the guys and girls who devote their lives to this beverage and these competitions. Seeing these people train and compete, not only taught us how little we actually knew about coffee, but truly it taught us how little we knew about perfection. We had never intended to film and follow the competition circuit, we wanted to make the "Jiro" version of this coffee movie. It just so happened a regional competition was happening the week we decided to start the project. It was in Santa Cruz about six hours away from, Los Angeles, where we were based. We scrambled that week to get our production in order. Boy, did we scramble. At the end of that hard, six-hour drive (I got a speeding ticket) we embarked on a world that we had no idea even existed. It was so rich and populated with characters you couldn't write. How could this not be the story we focused on? How could this not be the movie?

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR – ROCK BAIJNAUTH

After graduating with a film degree from the University of Toronto, Rock Baijnauth wore numerous hats on various productions in Canadian Cinema. He wrote spec scripts and would send them to agents and managers in Los Angeles with the hopes of someday being able to carve out a career. It was tough getting noticed three thousand miles away, so Rock picked up and moved to California to pursue his film dreams in 2008. His big break came in 2011 when he was part of a the directing team that created a groundbreaking documentary called, “The Pirate Tapes.” The controversial film saw a young Canadian born-Somali go under deep cover to live with a pirate cell in Somalia for three months. It was picked up by HBO. After the trials and tribulations of making “The Pirate Tapes”, Rock decided the subject for his next documentary should be a little more laid back. Coffee! Naturally. In 2013, Rock began filming **BARISTA** as a love letter to one of the world’s most fascinating beverages, what it evolved into was a film that went beyond coffee. A film that spoke to devoting yourself to something that you just can’t do without. For Rock, there was something universal and poetic in that idea. It was the kind of film he had always wanted to make and share with the world.

THE CAST

Eden Marie Abramowicz

Eden-Marie Abramowicz started her coffee career in her hometown of Alpharetta, Georgia at the age of 17. Coffee quickly went from a hobby to a job to a profession and in the spring of 2011 she moved out to Los Angeles to start washing dishes at Intelligentsia, Venice. It was a big jump but her family and friends were outrageously supportive spurring her to work hard and pursue her dream of making a profession in the coffee world. In the next year she spent as much time learning from as many people as possible. The following year she started as an Educator at Intelligentsia, Silverlake then switched over to management in 2013. Barista competitions have always been a huge part of her life and were a hugely beneficial medium to learn and share ideas. Currently Eden-Marie works with product research and purchasing for Intelligentsia spending time between Los Angeles, Chicago, and NYC.

Ryan Redden

Ryan was born in Talihina, Oklahoma at the Choctaw Indian Hospital. Raised in the south, mostly in Arkansas... when he was 13 he traveled to Southern California for the first time and knew he was going to live there (none of his family was surprised). He spent the next few years travelling all over the world (nearly every U.S. state, Southeast Asia, and South America) most of this travel was funded by coffee jobs. In San Francisco, he tried out college and also hosted a weekly radio show. The travel bug hit again a few years later, this time Orange County stuck and so did a higher level of specialty coffee and its pursuits. Ryan held every position in the coffee from busing to shop management. And after a decade of coffee 'stuff', he decided to get involved in competition by becoming a technical judge at the regional level. While living in Long Beach, Ryan heard about a new roaster in Orange County – Portola Coffee Lab. They asked him to come on for a few months to start, but then stuff started to pick up like crazy and then Ryan found himself with a huge opportunity to teach and compete and do things in coffee he had never done before (like make an affogato using -325 degree liquid nitrogen).

Charlie Habegger

Charlie has served coffee for tips and glory around the United States. He has a masters in ethnography. He was then a dishwasher and is still a good one. He is now a licensed coffee grader and green buyer for one of the world's most advanced roasters of awesome coffees. His most valued possession is a painting done by a former customer in Chicago. He thinks bitterness isn't appreciated enough.

Charles Babinski

As a kid growing up in Colorado Springs, Charles Babinski always knew that the small-town life was not for him. So once he got together the courage and the funds, he made his way to New York City. He started working in restaurants cooking on the line, aspiring to be a chef. But Babinski soon realized that the back of the house was not for him. So, he sought employment as a barista, thinking it would be easier – it wasn't, but was certainly rewarding. Babinski got his first taste of the coffee industry in the Upper East Side of Manhattan where he learned the basics and gained a rudimentary knowledge of professional coffee preparations. This experience sparked a personal interest and he started asking his peers where they went for the best cup in town. Ninth Street Coffee on the Lower East Side was a popular answer. Babinski became a regular there and when he mentioned he was moving to Chicago, they suggested that he apply for a job at Intelligentsia Coffee. A few months later, he was hired and eventually worked his way up to a trainer position that took him to Venice, California. At Intelligentsia Babinski worked with Kyle Glanville. The two took to each other and broke off from Intelligentsia to open G&B Coffee in 2013 and Go Get 'Em Tiger soon after—pumping caffeine flare into Down9town and Central Los Angeles.

CREDITS

HEAD CREDITS:

Samuel Goldwyn Films Presents

A Filmic Production of

A Rock Bajjnauth Film

BARISTA

END CREDITS:

BARISTA

directed and produced by rock bajjnauth

executive producer christopher kao

producers jimmy nguyen
roger singh
andrew moniz
ramona serletic
jason rose

featuring charlie habegger
charles babinski
eden marie abramowicz
ryan redder
truman severson

featuring percy ramirez
kyle glanville
nicely alameda
jeff newton
devorah freudiger
katie carguilo
jasper wilde
jordan michelman

featuring sam lewontin
nick purvis
pete licata
trevor corlett
tommy kim
frank la
andrew ogden
katie severson
katie spitz

featuring ryan wilbur
nathanael may
john paul doerr
paulina ruiz

original music

c.a. gabriel

associate producers

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richard cerow
sandra frame
patricia kao
mary kao
ruby baijnauth
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madison serletic
matthew serletic iii
john sy

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rob kraetsch

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andrew moniz
roger singh
rock baijnauth

assistant editor

william hitt

sound editor

tony solis

production assistants

charlotte stauffer
hiustyn fragile

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
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| marketing lead | amanda pham |
| marketing manager | kelli taylor |
| marketing assistant | erin dowling |
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Special Thanks wilbur curtis co.
 peter goldwyn
 jeff duggan
 luke jung
 umair aleem
 lara gallagher
 israel serna
 angel an
 emily freeman
 george nikitara
 the s.c.a.a.

special thanks ashley tomlinson
 the rolling picture company
 jessica jensen
 tracey warner
 jeff newton
 sevag sagherian
 ian puente
 andrew s. howard, esq.
 will rowbotham
 1883.com / @1883syrups

Special Thanks
Kickstarter backers

ting-po l
barron snyder
jeff liu
kevin mcgahey
lucia chiao
hannah block
paulina babinski
egon von romondt
george nikitaras
dialog cafe
ding sze yi
courtney helm

rock baijnauth would like to personally thank:

ruby baijnauth
sonny baijnauth
ash galardi
michael galardi
ramona serletic
matt serletic
ingrid nathai
deo nathai
juliet punwasi
bob punwasi
stephen punwasi
anthony punwasi
michael nathai
matthew serletic
madison serletic
roman galardi
julian galardi

christopher kao would like to thank:

mary kao
patty kao
brenda paramo
jonathan soon
in memory of timothy kao

for all their love and support in the making of this movie.

jimmy nguyen would like to thank:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| sue chung | april salud |
| talha asad | |
| lucia chiao | charlotte stauffer |
| urooj asad | |
| liz alper | scot reynolds |
| emih abrahamson | |
| jeane wong | sheila vossough |
| samantha wilson | |
| stefanie woodburn | miranda sajdkak |
| emily ricketson | |
| skylar song | natalie nicole gilbert |
| carlos abreu | |
| luciana faulhaber | natalie zhou |
| jillian adams | |
| cole quirk | nedaa sweiss |
| claire kaplan | |
| kai wu | zak olkewicz |
| joey depaolo | |
| wally schrass | katrina rennells |
| alex wirtzer | |
| kristen nielsen schrass | alona forsythe |
| nadi filsoof | |
| charles mruz | kevin brotman |
| andrew murphy | |
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| josia elliot | |
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| dann freeman | |
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| stepanie strauss | ryan mcguffey |
| des doyle | |
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| seth morrison | |
| blair underwood | reid cox |
| sheila everhart | |

julia glausi
michael masukawa
#30daysofespesso

michael gemballa
jona xiao

charlotte stauffer
charles mruz
nedaa sweiss
kaila dimopoulos
courtney southworth
jason rose
joanne mccallin
skylar song
dann freeman
cigdem akbay
katrina rennells
amanda pham
jillian adams

claire kaplan
stu arbury
rachel arbury

molly leland
meghan camarena
keith noordzy
josia elliot
kate hackett
emih abrahamson
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sue chung
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sandra frame
sharon ezra
heather mason
julia polshak

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Graffiti Sublime Coffee
Alfred Coffee & Kitchen
Olive & Thyme
Andante Coffee Roasters
Conservatory for Coffee, Tea & Cocoa
Cognoscenti Coffee
Caffe Concerto
Jones Coffee Roasters
Balconi Coffee Company
Javista
Short Cake
Cafe Dulce
Caffe Vita
Paper or Plastik Cafe
Dialog Cafe
Republic of Pie

Two Guns Espresso
KindKreme
Demitasse
Copa Vida
Go Get Em Tiger
Menotti's
Bru Coffeebar
Stumptown Coffee Roasters
Handsome Coffee Roasters
Portola Coffee Lab
Broome St. General Store
Intelligentsia
Helio Cafe
G&B Coffee
Cafe Americano

music

“Shortline (Frank Wiedemann Remix)”
Performed by Howling
Written by Frank Wiedemann and Ry Cuming

Courtesy of Innervisions

"Fame"

Performed by The Acid

Written by Steve Nalepa, Adam Freeland, Jens Kuross, Ry Cuming

Courtesy of Mute Records / Infectious Music

By arrangement with Zync Music Group LLC

"Habit"

Written by: Timothy James Beeler (ASCAP), Matthew Stephen May (SOCAN), Ben Patrick Stidworthy (SOCAN), Timothy Martin Keen (APRA)

Performed by: Ought

Published by: Secretly Canadian Publishing

"Power"

Written by: Denis Agofonov, Daniil Brod, Alexander Lipsky

Performed by: Pompeya

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"Blue Danube"

Written by: Johann Strauss II

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"The Rain"

Performed by Silent Partner

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"In Kind"

Written by: Taylor Bonner Smith, Raphaëlle Standell Preston, Austin Tufts, Katherine Lee

Performed by: Braids

Courtesy of Arbutus Records

By arrangement with Riptide Music Group

"Sparks"

Performed by: Sleep Thieves

Courtesy of Minty Fresh Inc.

By arrangement with Minty Fresh Inc.

"No Stranger"

Written by: Jeff Curtin, Josh Kolenik, Juan Pieczanski, and Ryan Heyner
Performed by: Small Black
Courtesy of jagjaguwar
By arrangement with Bank Robber Music

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