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# The Intelligencer

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## Actors Get Just Desserts at Bucks County Playhouse



Judges Ragusa, Morton, Lawrence and Fraser confer over the cupcakes.



Marjorie Monahan of Maison Blanc (from left), Alex Fraser, Julia Lehman and Maura Houk, both of Maryanne's Pastry Shoppe, and Justin Guarini celebrate Maison Blanc and Maryanne's Pastry Shop's tie for first place.

By Gwen Shrift, staff writer

In a case of life imitating art, but with more sugar, musical theater star Justin Guarini anticipated his role in a baking-themed new show at the Bucks County Playhouse by running a cupcake competition on Tuesday.

The playhouse staged a contest among three bakeries to promote "Cake Off," a new musical that previews on the weekend. Maryanne's Pastry Shoppe and Maison Blanc tied for first place when their offerings pleased a jury of actors and producing director Alex Fraser.

The theater gave the winners tickets to the production, and also rewarded third competitor The Lucky Cupcake with show passes.

"Cake Off," the musical, satirizes the conflict between the sexes at a million-dollar baking competition in a production with lyrics by Adam Gwon and Julia Jordan, based on a play by Sheri Wilner entitled "Bake Off."

New York's Signature Theatre, where the musical originated last year, calls the battle between protagonists Paul and Rita "an increasingly ludicrous all-out brawl . . . and only one can remain standing when the timer dings."

Guarini, veteran of TV show "American Idol" and "Company" at the playhouse, is joined onstage by Aidan J. Lawrence, Euan Morton and Michele Ragusa.

The production opens in previews Friday and Saturday, and runs through Sept. 10. Tickets and information: [bcptheater.org](http://bcptheater.org) or 215-862-2121.