

# NEWS RELEASE



Maryland Public Television

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May 30, 2024

**For immediate release**

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## **Create TV announces Maryland Public Television viewer Scott Meeks as its Create Cooking Challenge grand prize winner**

***Alexandria, Virginia resident watches the channel on MPT2/Create***

**OWINGS MILLS, MD** – Create® TV, a public television lifestyle channel offered regionally by [Maryland Public Television](http://MarylandPublicTelevision.org), today announces the grand prize winner in its 2024 Create Cooking Challenge: Scott Meeks of Alexandria, Virginia. Meeks watches the channel on Maryland-based MPT2/Create®.

Seeking new talent for an exclusive digital video series, Create selected “Easy Peasy” as this year’s content theme, with a focus on cooking demonstrations of recipes featuring six ingredients or less. Winners were judged based on criteria that included the entrant’s demonstrated knowledge, ability to present ideas succinctly, and production values.

Selected from 100 entries submitted from across the country, Meeks successfully embraced the goal to contribute and demonstrate new ideas for recipes that require minimal ingredients and deliver delicious results.

Culinary experts and Create TV hosts Sara Moulton (chef and host of *Sara’s Weeknight Meals*), Buki Elegbede (2017 Create Cooking Challenge winner and host of *Table for All with Buki Elegbede*), and Bridget Lancaster (executive editor and co-host, *America’s Test Kitchen*) served as final round judges for the Challenge. These hosts enjoy popular success on Create TV, one of public television’s leading multi-cast channels, showcasing the best of public television lifestyle and how-to programming. The channel has more than 30 million adult viewers annually.

### **Grand prize winner — Scott Meeks of Alexandria, Virginia (MPT2/Create viewer)**

Selected as the Grand Prize winner for demonstrating his recipe for Sweet Tea Barbecue, Meeks will receive a prize of \$4,000 and production equipment to finance and produce a ten-part web series of two-minute videos to premiere on [CreateTV.com](http://CreateTV.com).

Buki Elegbede remarked in his judging notes for the winning entry that “Scott is ready for primetime! Personality shines through the camera! Great presentation and a unique dish I can’t wait to try.”

Growing up in the 1980s, Meeks says his Saturdays were all about cartoons and PBS cooking shows. He credits chefs like Julia Child, Martin Yan, and Justin Wilson for inspiring his lifelong love of all things food. These days, Scott lives in the Washington, D.C. area, where he enjoys producing foodie content for his YouTube channel, collecting vintage cookbooks, and testing vegan recipes on his non-vegan family.

2024 Create Cooking Challenge co-second prize winners are Iris Fairfax of Philadelphia and Tristen Heath of Mechanicsville, Virginia. Meeks, Fairfax, and Heath were chosen from a field of ten finalists, hailing from public television markets across the country.

The video entries and recipes for all ten finalists are available at [CreateTV.com/challenge/winners](https://www.createTV.com/challenge/winners).

For the complete official rules, visit [CreateTV.com/challenge/](https://www.createTV.com/challenge/).

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### **About Maryland Public Television**

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates and distributes local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT’s commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and [Thinkport.org](https://www.thinkport.org). MPT’s year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit [mpt.org](https://www.mpt.org).

### **About Create**

Create® is the premier lifestyle channel featuring public television’s most popular how-to series, focused on food, travel, home & garden, arts & crafts, fitness, and lifestyle. Create is produced and distributed by American Public Television (APT); The WNET Group (New York); and GBH Boston in association with National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) and PBS. Create TV is carried by 240 local public television stations nationwide, reaching more than 83% of USTVHH, and is seen in 26 of the top 30 U.S. television markets. Create’s companion website [CreateTV.com](https://www.createTV.com) features extensive video, the Create TV schedule, program and host information.