

INTRODUCING SECRET CHEF NOLA

STORY BY HALEY SUMMERS

New Orleans, a continuously growing hub of film industry activity, has provided opportunities to people of every trade.

Dennis Weber, an experienced chef and entrepreneur who owns Secret Chef Nola, has discovered multiple career opportunities because of increased production in the city, catering to major events such as Beaucoup Festival in New Orleans and big-budget features like *Jurassic World*.

“The reason why we are interested in getting into the film world is because it is an everyday gig,” said Weber. “We have the opportunity to provide a service to someone every day, which is a great thing.”

Formerly a resident of Destin, Florida, Chef Weber and his partner, Rachael Arrington, have primarily focused on catering for various events like weddings, Mardi Gras balls, and birthday parties.

“We’re kind of the new kids on the block in terms of the film industry, but we’ve had a lot of experience catering in the city over the last few years. Our cuisine definitely speaks to this region,” said Weber.

Armed with a wealth of culinary knowledge and experience, Weber and Arrington describe their cooking style as “Floribbean.”

“We use a combination of Floridian, Creole, Indian and Caribbean techniques,” explained Arrington. “There’s definitely a lot of

flavor involved.”

According to Weber, one of the most difficult things about catering is making sure that the food is as fresh as possible, an issue that is amplified when catering to large film crews.

“Most food doesn’t travel well. We want to provide a lot of variety, all of it fresh, which isn’t all that possible when you have to commute from a kitchen to an event,” said Weber.

Luckily, he’s found a solution.

“We’re building a 30-foot mobile kitchen,” he said. “It has more fire power than what you find in most restaurant kitchens, and will allow us to cook up to 2,000 meals a day.”

“We’ll be able to cook nearly anything they request, which is of course a wonderful thing,” said Arrington. “Right now, most film crews rely on food trucks; we’re taking it to the next level with the mobile kitchen. We believe it’ll allow us to expand professionally in the film industry and in other arenas as well.” *LFV*



Contact secretchefnola@yahoo.com for more information.