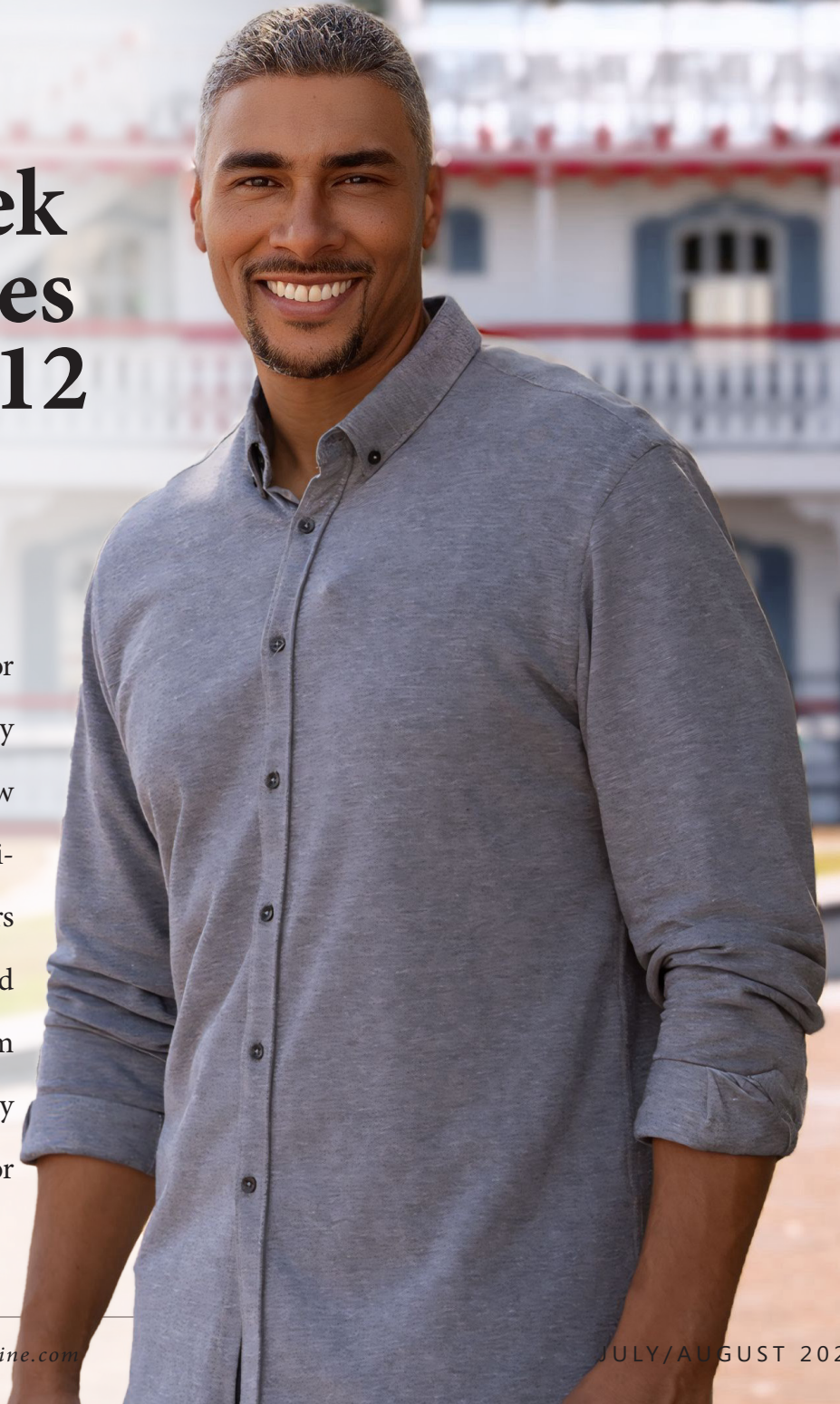


“A Chef’s Journey”

Dook Chase hosts 26-week cooking series on Channel 12

By Dean M. Shapiro, Senior Editor

World renowned for its wide variety of cuisines, New Orleans is a culinary mecca that draws millions of visitors annually. Legendary restaurants owned and operated by celebrity chefs, some of whom descend from families dating back many generations, add to the city’s reputation for fine dining.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARGARET CROSBY

Family owners of Dooky Chase's Restaurant in the city's historic Sixth Ward – widely renowned as Tremé – have been cooking their 85-year-old dining establishment's renowned Creole recipes since 1941. That tradition spans four generations under the Chase family, headed by its 44-year-old Executive Chef, Edgar Chase IV, who goes by the name Dook Chase.

New Orleans Public Television station WYES Channel 12 recently announced that Chef Dook is hosting a 26-episode series titled "Dook Chase: A Chef's Journey" premiering at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 18, 2026.

"The story of New Orleans is a story of diversity," Dook noted during a recent interview. "It's a story of many cultures, many celebrations and many institutions. Many restaurants, many chefs, you name it. We all celebrate who we are and we honor that."

"This celebration of New Orleans culture features local food icons sharing the stories, history and recipes that define our city's rich culinary heritage," Dook continued. "Many of the places featured reflect the ethnic culture of their owners' nationalities representing five continents, including our own."

Descended from three previous chef/owners, all of whom were named Edgar Dooky Chase followed by a Roman numeral, Dook has been working in the restaurant's kitchen since the age of 15, learning his craft from his family predecessors. He also holds a diploma from the world famous Le Cordon Bleu cooking school in Paris.

The series, with each episode running 30 minutes, will follow Chef Dook as he visits 26 individual new Orleans area dining establishments and other businesses with a direct connection to the city's culinary industry.

During the episodes that feature the chef-owners of a restaurant, Dook and his film crew will be recording the owners demonstrating, in their kitchens, the preparation of food items that are a specialty of each establishment. Then toward the end of the episode, Dook will prepare a similar item from the interviewed chef's recipe in the kitchen at the WYES studio.



Softshell Crab PoBoy made by Chef Dook Chase, inspired by his visit to Parkway Bakery and Tavern. PHOTO CREDIT: EUGENIA UHL



Chef Dook with Chef Meg Bickford PHOTO CREDIT: MARGARET CROSBY



Chef Dook with Chef E. J. Lagasse PHOTO CREDIT: MARGARET CROSBY



Chef Dook with Chef Serigne Mbay PHOTO CREDIT: MARGARET CROSBY

This will be the second time in recent years that the New Orleans-based public television station has featured the Chase family in its programming. WYES paid tribute to renowned Chef Leah Chase, Dook's grandmother, shortly after her passing in 2019.

The series opens with Dook interviewing and filming the chef in the kitchen of the riverboat Natchez, discussing the importance of the Mississippi River in the development of New Orleans's cooking traditions.

Among the restaurants being featured in the series include some of New Orleans's most renowned dining venues, including Emeril's, Commander's Palace and Cochon. Also announced in advance of the show's debut are Angelo Brocato's, Chapter IV, Café Reconcile, Dakar NOLA, Dong Phuong Bakery, Lagniappe Bakehouse, NOCHI (New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute), Parkway Bakery and Tavern, Saffron NOLA, Sweet Saint, and Vaucresson Sausage and Creole Deli. Other establishments will be announced and featured as the series moves along toward a January 2027 completion date.

Also being highlighted in the series are those establishments that have been in families for generations, including Dooky Chase's Restaurant. "We started in 1941 as a po' boy shop and bar," Dook said. "Then we added some dining to it. And

then we expanded to the full capacity. The three dining rooms we have today are from 1984.

"So a lot of these stories not only celebrate who and what they are but we also show the importance of those that are passed down from generation to generation," Dook continued. "We touch on businesses that are in their third and fourth generations and even some that are going into their fifth generations.

"Even on the steamboat there's ownership that's generational," he added. "There are captains who are generational. Captains who navigated the steamboats *Natchez* and the *City of New Orleans* are in their fourth generations of a families of river pilots. So, when you start to see all these families and traditions and things that are passed down it's truly amazing."

Dook also referenced the De Carlo Family Farm in Plaquemines Parish. It will be featured on one of the show's episodes as the source for produce that is served at local restaurants or used as ingredients



Chef Dook with his family. PHOTO CREDIT: MARGARET CROSBY

for dishes prepared there. The De Carlo family, Dook noted, is in its third and fourth generations from its Italian roots.

A companion cookbook to the "Dook Chase: A Chef's Journey" series is being published locally by Pelican Publishing Company and will be on sale in early September 2026. The book will contain all the recipes that are featured in the series, as well as a few additions. The same company also published the best-selling "Dooky Chase Cookbook" by the late Chef Leah Chase, along with her two other cookbooks including the companion to the WYES broadcast series that paid tribute to her in 2019.

"What we try to highlight in this new series are all the good things about New Orleans. All of the great things we love about this city. New Orleans is one heck of a city. So fascinating," Dook concluded.

"DOOK CHASE: A CHEF'S JOURNEY" premieres on WYES Channel 12 on Saturday, July 18 from 10:00-10:30 a.m. and runs through Saturday, January 9, 2027. Re-runs are on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Viewers throughout the WYES broadcast area can also stream the series on wyes.org, PBS.org and the PBS App.



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