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Abstract

Historically, women are often cast as the home-makers and cooks. It has been the “woman’s job” to put a meal on the table for the husband when he returns from work. We all know this stereotype, as well as the one that goes hand in hand with it: men can-not cook to save their lives. These stereotypes are seen everywhere in modern, western culture.

My research examines some simple questions: where do the roots of the restaurant and food industries lie? Why is it that men can make a living off of cooking, but all too often cannot fend for themselves while their wife or partner is away? Finally, I will investigate the culinary world: why is it still run mostly by men and why are “professional” female chefs consistently forced into the role of homemaker or party planner? My research will also take my own views and time in the industry into consideration as I investigate these questions and attempt to map the similarities and differences in what I and others have seen. The modern, professional kitchen is diverse in regards to the gender and sexuality of its employees, but when you are in that environment, those diversities tend to fall to the wayside and you are expected to take on the role of a stereotypical, heterosexual male.