

## People &amp; Places

## People

## Lockdown cookbook

## 'Ramsay in 10' filled with shortcuts, tips

NEW YORK, Nov 2, (AP): How did **Gordon Ramsay** spend his pandemic lockdown? Getting frenetic in a kitchen, of course.

The chef with a dizzying number of books, restaurants and TV shows was home in Cornwall, England, with mouths to feed last year when he did a series of lives on Instagram cooking meals in 10 minutes or less. The fast-moving endeavor he began on YouTube the year before culminated in "Ramsay in 10," his latest cookbook filled with recipes made against the clock.

"There's so much fun to be had in cooking food that doesn't need to take 60 or 70 minutes at a time," he told The Associated Press in a recent interview on Zoom from Los Angeles.

"Ramsay in 10" was a bit of a miracle because it's the first time in 20 years anyone's ever said to me, 'Stop. Time out.'"

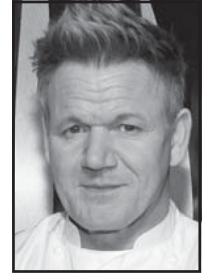
The world is used to seeing a sped-up - and sometimes terrifying - Ramsay, saving failing restaurants, judging chefs competing for prize money, scaling Sicilian cliffs in search of the perfect octopus. But it's not used to seeing him run around his own kitchen surrounded by his wife, Tana Ramsay, and their kids, ranging from 2 to 23.

The Instagram lives tickled thousands of fans with the rare treat of seeing Ramsay cook in real time.

"No passports. No flights. No schedule," he said of the shutdown. "You're not filming. You're staying home and you're cooking breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you told me that two years ago, I'd never have believed you. We had to get super creative and go quick and easy and uncomplicated."

He had the pandemic's strains on families top of mind.

"Every doctor and nurse was on their knees, and every hospital was bursting with anxiety and pressure," Ramsay said. "And so what I wanted to do was to take that pressure off."



Ramsay

## Recipes

Among his 100 recipes made in a flash: a humble omelet elevated with mozzarella and shiitake mushrooms, and another with fish sauce and shrimp. There's a one-pan pumpkin pasta with amaretti biscuits and lemon thyme, and a quick smoked haddock kedgeree using pre-cooked rice.

Ramsay filled his book - his 31st - with shortcuts and tips on how to stock a pantry and fridge for home cooks on the go. He calls these recipes fast food at its finest - not quicker than a frozen meal tossed into a microwave but faster than a takeout delivery. And he gives home cooks grace on the clock, acknowledging his status as a seasoned pro.

"The way I used to write cookbooks was thinking I'm going to be judged by every chef on the planet. The recipes were laden with 152 ingredients. Cooking at home is completely different, and I've learned that so much more," Ramsay said.

His "Ramsay in 10" is out Nov. 2 from Hachette Book Group.

At home, it's usually Tana who does the cooking. "She is an amazing home cook," he said. "That's the first time I've properly cooked at home. It's like running a restaurant where no one went home."

The 54-year-old Ramsay seems ever-present on streaming and TV networks in the UK and US. With his own production company, the shows keep coming. There's "Hell's Kitchen," "MasterChef" and "MasterChef Jr.," "Kitchen Nightmares" and "The F Word," to name a few. His latest, "Next Level Chef," is set to premiere on Fox in January with line cooks, home chefs, social media stars and food truck owners competing to be crowned culinary king or queen.

Among his reasons for taking to television as long ago as 1997 was to promote his restaurants. With seven Michelin stars, Ramsay now has 50 restaurants scattered around the world. And he's thankful all survived the pandemic. His latest is due to open at the end of the year in Edinburgh.

Another thing that keeps him on screens, he said, is his lust for discovering new talent. The money ain't bad, either. His net worth has been estimated at roughly \$220 million.

## Inspired

Ramsay started out modestly after moving from Scotland to Stratford-upon-Avon as a boy. He washed dishes in restaurants and watched his mom toil as a restaurant cook, with a second job as a nurse. He likens the restaurant world to high-pressure competitive sport, which he caught a taste of as a teenage footballer in England before injuries took him off the pitch for good.

In the mid-1980s, he worked as a commis chef at the Wroxton House Hotel. He ran the kitchen and 60-seat dining room at the Wickham Arms, until his sexual relationship with the owner's wife made the situation difficult. Ramsay then moved to London, where he worked in a series of restaurants until being inspired to work for the temperamental Marco Pierre White at Harveys.

After working at Harveys for two years and ten months, Ramsay, tired of "the rages and the bullying and violence", decided that the way to further advance his career was to study French cuisine. White discouraged Ramsay from taking a job in Paris, instead encouraging him to work for Albert Roux at Le Gavroche in Mayfair, where he met Jean-Claude Breton, later his maitre d'hôtel at Restaurant Gordon Ramsay.

"So at the age of 18, when you're down on your knees, mum always taught me from a very early age, never get bitter, just get even. Dust yourself off and pull yourself together," he said. "So the escape in food was meant to plop myself in an area where nobody knew who I was."

He went to France for three years to study the cuisine there, and a career was born.

To relax, Ramsay works out. He swims, jogs, rides bikes and hikes with 2-year-old Oscar on his back. Being fit serves him well in his fast-paced life on TV and at the top of a restaurant empire, he said.

"I think chefs have some of the most unethical eating habits on the planet because we don't sit down and eat properly," he said.

"My mum was the early influencer in terms of food. We got taught not just to respect food, but not waste it. She always said eat with your belly, not your eyes."

BURT BACHARACH AND STEVEN SATER'S  
SOME LOVERS

FEATURING

CHRISTY ALTOMARE  
KRISTIN CHENOWETH  
LILLI COOPER  
AULI' CRAVALHO  
SANTINO FONTANA  
MOLLY GORDON  
JONATHAN GROFF  
JENNIFER HOLLIDAY  
RAMIN KARIMLOO  
DEREK KLENA  
KATRINA LENK  
LEA MICHELE  
LAURA OSNES  
ASHLEY PARK  
GRAHAM PHILLIPS  
CONRAD RICAMORA  
COLTON RYAN  
ARI'EL STACHEL  
ETHAN SLATER  
TRACIE THOMS  
BETSY WOLFE



## WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

This cover image released by Broadway Records shows 'Some Lovers' by Burt Bacharach and Steven Sater. (AP)

## Theater

## Audra McDonald eyes Broadway again

## Burt, Steven album attracts B'way stars

NEW YORK, Nov 2, (AP): One of musical theater's most exciting new writing partnerships started with a breakup song.

Composer Burt Bacharach and lyricist Steven Sater bonded while creating "Ready to Be Done With You," cementing a collaboration that has now produced a 13-track concept album sung by some of Broadway's best.

"It's just been a thrill ride for me and the thrill of a lifetime to work with Burt," says Sater, the Tony-, Olivier- and Grammy-winner behind "Spring Awakening," which paired his story and lyrics with music by Duncan Sheik.

The still-to-be-staged musical is called "Some Lovers" and Broadway Records has released its clutch of songs just in time for the collection to be eligible for this year's Grammy for best musical theater album.

The starry list of singers includes Jennifer Holliday, Kristin Chenoweth, Jonathan Groff, Lea Michele, Christy Altomare, Ramin Karimloo, Auli'i Cravalho, Derek Kleina, Betsy Wolfe, Tracie Thoms, Katrina Lenk, Santino Fontana, Conrad Ricamora, Ashley Park, Ethan Slater and Lilli Cooper.

"Just as a fan of all things great songwriting and great Broadway, it's just perfect," says Colton Ryan, who sings the opening song, "Molly," with his "Alice By Heart" co-star Molly Gordon. "I mean, I'm a little biased, but I'm also pretty objective."

"Some Lovers" is designed to have a cast of four singers, who together portray a couple - Ben and Molly - in their optimistic youth and also in their jaded, disaffected middle age. It moves in and out of memory and time.

"The show kind of happens in the memory and imagination of the older people. But the young parts of themselves are still in love with each other and trying to convince them to get back with each other," says Sater.

He says the story was inspired by "The Gift of the Magi," the O. Henry short story about a young poor couple. She sells her hair to buy a watch chain, and he sells his watch in order to buy her a set of combs for Christmas.

"What if we took what happened to those people 15 years later, after they made these huge sacrifices?" asks Sater. "What are they feeling?"

And so that was how we began work on the show. It was almost like crafting a jukebox musical out of your own songs."

## Powerful

The path that "Some Lovers" has taken has taken years, led to dead ends and yet proved more powerful than the pandemic. Sater first connected with Bacharach years ago when he was invited to the house of the composer of such timeless songs as "What the World Needs Now Is Love," "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head," and "I Say a Little Prayer for You."

"At the end of this long meeting, where I kind of stayed too long, he said to me, 'Well, it sounds like you have your partner for the theater. But if you ever have a lyric, maybe you could give it to me.' And I said, 'I brought one.'"

That song was "Ready to Be Done With You" and Bacharach read the lyrics while he was walking Sater out. As he read it, he slumped against a wall, turned around and walked Sater back to read the whole lyric out loud sitting down. "He said, 'Oh, Stevie, this is so real, man. You know, who hasn't felt this?'"

Two months later, Bacharach called Sater and said, "I have a little something for that lyric you wrote. Do you want to hear it?" Sater recalls, "Somehow he had turned it into a Bacharach song, and it was just the most beautiful thing." A partnership was born.

The proto-musical made its debut at the Old Globe in San Diego in 2011 but its creators weren't happy. "We were so not ready," Sater says. In 2016, the songs were presented in concert at Lincoln Center and a revised musical was staged at a festival in London in 2017 and the Adirondack Theatre Festival in 2018.

Just before the pandemic hit, Sater and Bacharach came up with a clever twist: They'd ask singers who played lovers previously on Broadway to record their songs as duets.

It meant Ryan would sing with his "Alice By Heart" co-star Gordon, Groff and Michele reunited from "Spring Awakening," Slater and Cooper from "SpongeBob SquarePants" and Lenk and Ari'el Stachel from "The Band's Visit."

"There's something so heart-breaking and there's so much yearning in this album. It's because I think it has so much chemistry already within it," said Ryan.

Ryan recorded his part at his mom's house in Kentucky. He used a room a little bigger than a closet and sound-proofed by putting Styrofoam on the walls. He sang to a stripped down track and the horns and strings were added later. Gordon sang her part months later from Los Angeles and their voices were knit together.

"To actually hear the finished product I was elated. I was shocked. I could not believe that it sounded as good as it did," says Ryan. "We all sent our little pieces away from our corners of the world. And then it turned into this lush thing."

## Also:

**NEW YORK:** Audra McDonald is going from host of the Tony Awards to another stage role.

The six-time Tony-winner will return to Broadway in the play "Ohio State Murders" by Adrienne Kennedy, directed by Tony Award winner Kenny Leon. Dates and the creative team will be announced later.

The play takes the form of a lecture given by the character Suzanne Alexander, a well-known African American writer who has accepted an invitation to return to her alma mater, Ohio State University, to talk about her work. It twists into a murder mystery that unfolds over the course of the lecture. Alexander rehearses late at night deep in the stacks of the Ohio State University library.

Kennedy will make her Broadway debut with this production at age 90.

Originally commissioned by Great Lakes Theatre Festival in Cleveland, "Ohio State Murders" received its world premiere there in 1992 starring Ruby Dee, a year after a workshop production at the Yale Repertory Theatre.

McDonald won a Tony in 2014 playing Billie Holiday in "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill." She also won Tonys for "Carousel," "Master Class," "Ragtime," "A Raisin in the Sun," and "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess."



Ella Hunt arrives at the premiere of 'Dickinson' on Monday, Nov. 1, 2021, at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, Calif. (AP)

## Variety

**MIAMI:** Jon Bon Jovi tested positive for COVID-19 during a rapid test just before he was set to perform a concert in Miami Beach.

An announcer took to the stage to give the crowd the bad news just before Saturday night's concert at Loews South Beach was set to begin. WSVN in Miami reported.

Bon Jovi, 59, and his bandmates took rapid tests just before the concert and Bon Jovi tested positive. He is fully vaccinated. Ticket holders were required to show proof of vaccination or negative test results to get into the concert, the highlight of a three-day hotel package costing up to thousands of dollars a person.

"Jon feels great," the announcer told the crowd, adding that the "Livin' On a Prayer" singer was going to bed.

He also had been scheduled to participate in a Q & A session and a photo op on Saturday night.

There was no word on whether the concert would be rescheduled. (AP)

**NASHVILLE, Tenn:** The Grand Ole Opry's broadcast of its 5,000th Saturday show attracted a host of big country music stars to its historic venue.

Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Darius Rucker, Vince Gill, Chris Young and a half-dozen others lined up to celebrate the nearly century-old country music program.

The radio broadcast was carried by WSM radio, the same station that it debuted on as the "Barn Dance" program in 1925. The Tennessee reported.

Bill Anderson, a 60-year Opry veteran, kicked off the show with the Roy Acuff tune "Wabash Cannonball."

Singer Vince Gill played an acoustic guitar he said was once owned by Opry star Sam McGee. Gill said McGee first played the famed radio program in 1926, months before the barn dance program became known as the Grand Ole Opry.

Brooks and Yearwood closed the show with a set of several songs before Brooks ended with his country classic "Friends in Low Places."

"Happy 5,000 to the Grand Ole Opry" Brooks said. "Can't tell you how lucky we feel to be a part of it." (AP)

**SPRINGFIELD, Mass:** Dad bod, amirite, TBH and FTW are now dictionary-appropriate.

Merriam-Webster has added 455 new words to its venerable dictionary, including a number of abbreviations and slang terms that have become ubiquitous on social media.

"Just as the language never stops evolving, the dictionary never stops expanding," the nearly 200-year-old Springfield, Massachusetts-based company said on its



Brooks



Bon Jovi

website. "New terms and new uses for existing terms are the constant in a living language."

The dictionary company said the quick and informal nature of messaging, texting, and tweeting, which has only increased during the pandemic, has "contributed to a vocabulary newly rich in efficient and abbreviated expression."

Among them: "TBH", an abbreviation for "to be honest" and "FTW," an abbreviation for "for the win." (AP)