

Famed chefs turn McDonald's happy meals into fancy fares

Written by EDMUND M. SILVESTRE
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Chef Dale Talde talks to members of the press. □ (Filipino Reporter photo)

In line with McDonald's commitment to promote and provide nutritious meals to the public, the world's leading fast food chain gathered four of America's celebrated chefs, among them Filipino-American Dale Talde of Bravo's "Top Chef" fame, to whip up healthy gourmet dishes out of McDonald's basic ingredients.

This one-of-a-kind culinary event held Sept. 26 at Three-Sixty^o on Desbrosses Street in Downtown Manhattan was attended by foodies, franchisees, bloggers and members of the

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press, including the **Filipino Reporter**, who were invited to try out the fancy dishes.

McDonald's executive chef Dan Coudreaut, who was the night's master of ceremonies, said the four topnotch chefs — Talde, Telemundo cooking show star James Tahhan, Food Network's "Big Daddy's House" host Aaron McCargo Jr.; and McDonald's nutrition and culinary manager Jessica Foust — were given "full access to McDonald's pantry and refrigerators to elevate the McDonald's experience to fine dining."

Chef Dale Talde's appetizing "Kung Pao Chicken" was first served that night.

A self-confessed McDonald's fan since childhood, Talde — currently executive chef and co-owner of the famous "Talde's" and "Pork Slope," both in Brooklyn, N.Y. — chose the Chicken McNuggets and mixed them generously with sweet and sour sauce, rice wine vinegar, peanuts and served with iceberg lettuce and sliced oranges.

Its delectable taste, aroma and presentation was unmistakably Asian, and it looked more fancy than your ordinary Chicken McNuggets.

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Chef Aaron McCargo Jr.'s "Bold BBQ Chicken." (Filipino Reporter photo)

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California chefs transform McDonald's 2013 breakfast at the Three Sixty in