

FOOD HEAVEN

DREAMS TO REALITY

Mohammed Alamgir and Titu Ahad chat to us about their new culinary TV series, helping young chefs and putting the region on the culinary map.

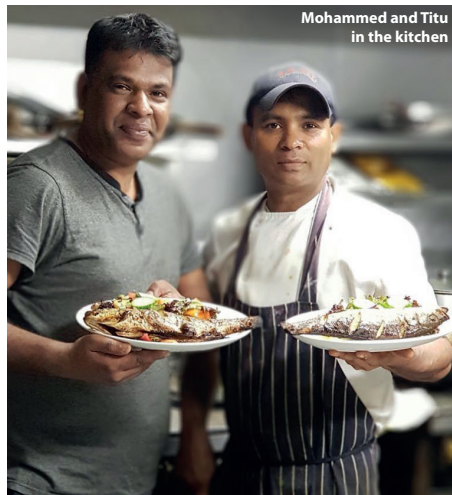
It's inspirational to meet two people with such enthusiasm and passion for what they do, so it was a pleasure to meet Mohammed Alamgir and Titu Ahad to talk about the second series of their show *Chef TV Reality Show* on Channel 1.

The show takes chefs from the region and puts them through their paces in the kitchen. The quality of cuisine is so great that Season One winner Milon Miah (pictured right with Lady Elsie Robson) went on to win International Chef of The Year. Yes, it's that good.

Childhood friends Titu and Mohammed originally had the idea to try something that had never been done before and showcase the North's hidden talent in a cookery show. They founded Northern Eye Productions and were joined by Abdul Kareem as managing director and Abdul Boshor as finance director.

They gathered the necessary finance themselves and with the help from Douglas Jordan, the chairman of NECTA (The North East Culinary Trader Association), along with Newcastle College and Leeds College, made themselves a groundbreaking TV show.

Series one was so well received, Kingfisher came on board as a major sponsor for series two. Mohammed and Titu worked hard to



Mohammed and Titu in the kitchen



Lady Elsie Robson with winner Milon Miah and Mohammed



The contestants on the show with Keka Ferdosi

convince the brand to associate with the show, but it was a match made in heaven.

Douglas Jordan became the main judge on the show along with Keka Ferdosi (who is one of Bangladesh's most famous faces, presenting cookery shows for over 30 years).

CEO Titu and Northern Eye founder Mohammed cite Douglas as the backbone of the show, saying he has really helped bring it to the wider community.

They say both Newcastle and Leeds College have been invaluable. Taking the contestant chefs into the colleges gave them access to techniques, instilled a different discipline and cooking methods.

In conjunction with the series, they have raised money for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. Never before have 16 restaurants participated simultaneously in one night to raise money on this scale.

Titu and Mohammed's passion for food is infectious. Titu mentored Milon Miah who won series one of the show. He was automatically entered in International Chef of the Year 2017, which he won too. He received his award from Princess Anne at a glittering ceremony in London. The finalists were chosen from a list of 10,000, selected from a total of 20,000 applications from Indian chefs and restaurants around the world.

It's this selflessness and sense of pride in the region, coupled with their incredible passion, that has led to this fantastic success.

Titu who owns the fantastic Saathi Restaurant on Priestpople in Hexham went on to say "We want to put the North of England on the culinary map."

He recently did the first ever live curry cooking demo in the North of England, even taking along his own Tandoor Oven.

"We are building memories for the North of England. These will be something important that will put us on the map. It can also bring communities together and that can only be a good thing." **L**



We want to put the North of England on the culinary map.

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