



THE AAA WORLD INTERVIEW

Duff Goldman Talks Cakes, Cars and Charm City

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, Baltimore has had its fair share of famous residents, from Frederick Douglass to Edgar Allan Poe, Babe Ruth to Frank Zappa; nowadays, however, Charm City's favorite son just might be celebrity pastry chef Duff Goldman. As the owner of Charm City Cakes, Goldman put Baltimore—and baking—back on the map with his star turn as the Ace of Cakes on the Food Network show of the same name.

In 2011, Goldman expanded his sugar empire to Los Angeles, opening Charm City Cakes West as well as Duff's Cakemix, a decorate-your-own-cake shop. Today, he splits his time equally between the two coasts. AAA World recently caught up with Goldman to chat about his beloved city where it all started, as well as a few of his other favorite things.

AAA WORLD: What are some of your must-see, must-do suggestions for visitors to Baltimore?

GOLDMAN: I love the National Aquarium. It's one of my favorite places on the planet. No matter what kind of problems you're having or what kind of mood you're in, you leave there feeling so good and so happy with the universe. Across the harbor is the American Visionary Art Museum.

It's an incredible art museum filled with work by nontraditional artists. A long walk or a short cab ride from the harbor is the Washington Monument in the Mount Vernon neighborhood. You can climb to the top of it, and since it's sitting on one of the highest points in

Baltimore, you can see all around the city. Once you're in Mount Vernon, you can go to The Walters Art Museum, which is probably my favorite 'art museum' in the world because it's a cool combination of art and history.

Of course, it's great to see a Ravens or an Orioles game, but what you really want to do is see a Charm City Roller Girls roller derby match. That's when you really get to see true Baltimore sports.



AAAW: As a self-proclaimed Ravens superfan, how excited were you for their Super Bowl win?

GOLDMAN: Aw man, it was indescribable! I was watching the game in L.A., and I was out on my balcony every five minutes screaming. I sent out a tweet apologizing to my neighbors, saying 'The Ravens game is on TV, and I'm sorry, but I'm going to be screaming all night.'

AAAW: Did you bake the Ravens a victory cake?

GOLDMAN: We did. We brought them a cake to the victory parade.

AAAW: We hear that you're a gearhead.

GOLDMAN: I am. When I was a kid, my friend's dad bought a

'68 Mustang 200 cubic-inch straight six-cylinder. It was a total beater. But we got it put together and running over the summer, and that was my introduction to mechanics. From there, we rebuilt a '67 Mustang, and in my junior year [of high school], I built a '72 Super Beetle and then a '78 Grand Wagoneer. And after that, I built an '81 Rabbit. It was so awesome. It had a crank sunroof. And it didn't have first gear. It had second, third

and fourth, but it didn't have first gear. I loved that car.

AAAW: What's your dream ride?

GOLDMAN: Right now, I would say a really beefed-up custom café racer from Hellcat Customs in [Phoenix] Arizona. I'd put a Harley-Davidson Sportster engine in it and a turbo [charger system], and I'd make sure it's really comfortable. For a car, I'd have to say a metal-flaked, bright-purple drop-top '71 Pontiac GTO. That's a cool car.

AAAW: Why do you like road trips so much?

GOLDMAN: Everything smells different. Everything looks different. I love seeing things that are new and novel and different. There's so much of this country that people miss when they fly. The Great Plains, for example, are amazing. There's just something about driving through the Midwest, especially when you start to get into the West and the landscape starts to change. A road trip will change the way you feel about yourself and your relation to everything, to the world around you.

AAAW: Are there any trips you'd love to take?

GOLDMAN: My goal is to ride my [motorcycle] from Boston to Argentina. It would be an epic journey, but it's something I'd really like to do before I die. I'm going to Algeria soon, and instead of coming straight home, I'm going to fly to somewhere in Spain and rent a bike and ride north to San Sebastián or somewhere like that. I don't know what road I want to take or what route. I just want to do it and see where I end up.

—Rebecca L. Rhoades