

The IMPROV

Jan 28–Feb 10, 2015
The Man Issue
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A WARRIOR
WORKOUT

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GAMEDAY
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the MOST
INTERESTING
MAN in the
WORLD

*Metro Boston's Natty
Guide to Entertainment,
Culture and Suiting Up*

GOING OFF SCRIPT

With SITCOM
STALWART
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BOWLED OVER:
Head online to find out how to make a cookie bowl for your gameday dip.



SUPER SWEET

Pastry guru **Justin Burke-Samson** says he spent the last year feeling “like a kid in a candy store.” **Party of Two**, the tarts-and-doughnuts concept he launched with *Top Chef* alum Stephanie Cmar, has amassed a cult following with local pop-ups and a cross-country road trip. A brick-and-mortar restaurant is planned for this year, and pop-ups previewing the menu are slated to start in February. (Follow him at @JTBSamson for more info.) But in the meantime, his catering work has him whipping up a Super Bowl-themed selection of sweets that elevate standard party snacks. Order via partyoftwoboston.com by Jan. 30, or up your own game in the kitchen with one of his recipes. Touchdown! / *Scott Kearnan*

For recipes for bourbon bacon caramel popcorn and Tailgate Trademark Tarts, visit improper.com.

COOKIE DOUGH DIP

1/2 cup unsalted butter
1/3 cup light brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
8 ounces cream cheese
1/2 cup powdered sugar
1/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips, pulsed in a food processor
1/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips, whole
Optional: You can add candy-coated pieces, nuts, raisins—or whatever you want. Go nuts!

In a small saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the brown sugar and stir until it dissolves. Remove from heat and mix in the vanilla. Set aside and let it cool completely.

With an electric mixer, combine the cream cheese and powdered sugar on medium

speed for about 5 minutes until the mixture is light and fluffy.

Add the cooled butter-brown sugar mixture. Start on low and gradually increase speed to medium for about 1 minute until the mixture is fully incorporated and the color of cookie dough. Add the pulsed and whole chocolate chips (and any additions) and mix.

Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Remove the dip from the refrigerator and let it soften for 15 minutes. Transfer it to a serving bowl. Top it with sprinkles and serve with pretzels, fruit, graham crackers or potato chips. The dip can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.



SWAT TEAM:
Check out the full interview at improper.com.



Q&A FLY GUY

As one of 14 talents featured in the new MassArt exhibit *Color Fields*, **John Knuth** has made a series of paintings with some unusual collaborators: houseflies. The L.A. artist feeds the flies watercolor paint, which they transfer via flyspeck to his canvases. We asked Knuth about his unlikely co-workers and the colorful show, on view through March 7. / *Alexandra Cavallo*

HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THIS IDEA?

I initially started using the flies in the buildup to the second Iraq war. There was all this talk about biological warfare, and I'd been reading about flies and how they spread disease. And I was interested in making my own little biological warfare air force. There's this parlor trick where you tie a little paper airplane to a horsefly ... so I was cutting little paper airplanes out of cigarette paper and tying them to flies and letting them fly around the room. And I started seeing how they were actually spreading their biological contents. So it started as a way of using flyspeck to transfer different materials.

IS IT ABOUT CREATING BEAUTY FROM

SOMETHING PEOPLE DESPISE? Yes, to me it became about transcendence of materials, using something very base to make something beautiful. And I also like them as a metaphor for the megalopolis. The compositions are like a million specks on a plane. For me, that's like flying over the San Gabriel Mountains and the L.A. Basin, and you see L.A. infinitely sprawled out forever.

DO YOU HAVE MORE RESPECT FOR FLIES

NOW? No, I still kill those little motherfuckers all the time. [Laughs] I mean, yes and no. They're still pests. One thing I've learned about flies, though, is that they're remarkably clean. Flies are only gross when you introduce something gross into their diet—like dog shit or a dead raccoon.

DOES THE PAINT HURT THEM? I talked with an entomologist.... The only thing he could come up with was that they're living normal life spans and they're sexually active. So I always joke that if you're living a normal life span and you're sexually active, life's pretty good.



ON THE BLOGS

MISSION: FEB. 1, 2015 As we predicted in our Patriots preview (ahem, pat on the back, Mr. Dyer), New England is headed to Super Bowl XLIX in Arizona. Check out improper.com for coverage, from a Q&A with three-time Super Bowl champ Matt Light to a list of the best places to watch the game.