From the screens to your kitchen

Recreating iconic movie and TV foods

By SOPHIE MURRAY
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There's something about food in movies or a television show that makes it look so much better than anything in your kitchen or something you could make yourself.

Maybe it's the camera angle, or simply that the food is fake and made to draw us in. Or maybe it's because it's a cartoon and no food has ever quite looked like that in real life. Either way, it all just makes you want it so much more.

Luckily, you don't need to live in the films to be able to have the foods they do, since you could easily recreate them at home. They may not look identical to what you see on the screen, but they'll definitely taste good.

Personally, I have a few movie meals that I have always wanted to try.

"The Princess and the Frog" is a movie surrounded by food, especially because it's set in Louisiana, where food is a deep-rooted part of the culture. The whole premise of the story is that Princess Tiana wants to open up her own restaurant, but has to work her way toward that dream to make her dad proud.

The movie opens with a young Tiana and her dad making gumbo, a Louisiana staple. She goes around and shares it with her neighbors, which really emphasizes the connection food has to the movie and the story.

I've never had gumbo, but I am absolutely going to recreate it because it's pretty simple to make. It's made with veggies like bell peppers, onion and celery, smoked sausage, chicken and shrimp with broth and lots of Cajun seasonings.

My favorite movie growing up was "The Princess Diaries." Starring my two favorite actresses, Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews. There have always been foods from movies that I've always been so intrigued to try.

There is a scene where Princess Mia is at a royal dinner, where she is expected to make a strong first impression. In between courses, as a palate cleanser, they were served an unnaturally bright green pear and mint sherbet. She takes a big, enthusiastic bite and immediately gets an extreme brain freeze, causing a giant scene

I think the unnaturally bright green color is what makes it so intriguing. I can't say I'd enjoy a combination of pear and mint, but Genovia is known for their pears, so it makes sense. To make it, you blend up pears, water, sugar, lemon and mint leaves along with some green food coloring for the iconic presentation.

An iconic movie food I think everyone has wanted to eat once is the ratatouille from "Ratatouille." I don't even love cooked vegetables, but something about the presentation of the dish makes it look so good. Plus, the way it transforms Anton Ego, the harsh food critic, back to a childhood memory of his mother's cooking makes it even more memorable.

Ratatouille consists of zucchini, eggplant, squash and tomatoes. You arrange the vegetables in the movie's iconic swirl pattern over tomato sauce and bake.

My all-time favorite show is "Gilmore Girls," which is known for its amazing fall vibes. One of the foods I'd love to recreate is Luke's pumpkin pancakes with homemade cinnamon butter. This sounds like a perfect fall morning meal and looks so delicious and comforting.

You can make it pretty easy for yourself by using boxed pancake mix and adding pureed pumpkin to your wet ingredients along with some cinnamon and pumpkin pie spice.

For the cinnamon butter, combine softened butter, honey, powdered sugar and cinnamon, and it's the perfect topping for the pancakes.

I loved watching "Mulan" when I was younger, and I especially loved the scene where Mushu makes Mulan congee, a traditional Asian rice porridge. He gives it a smiley face made with eggs and bacon on top, and it always looks so satisfying.

Congee has been enjoyed across Asia for thousands of years and is often considered a healing food. To create Mulan's version, you cook rice in chicken broth and garlic, then serve it with eggs and bacon, just like Mushu.

At the end of the day, you don't have to live in a movie or television show to try the foods that make them so memorable. Whether it's Tiana's gumbo, Luke's pumpkin pancakes or Remy's ratatouille, recreating these dishes is a fun way to bring some of your favorite movies and shows into your kitchen.

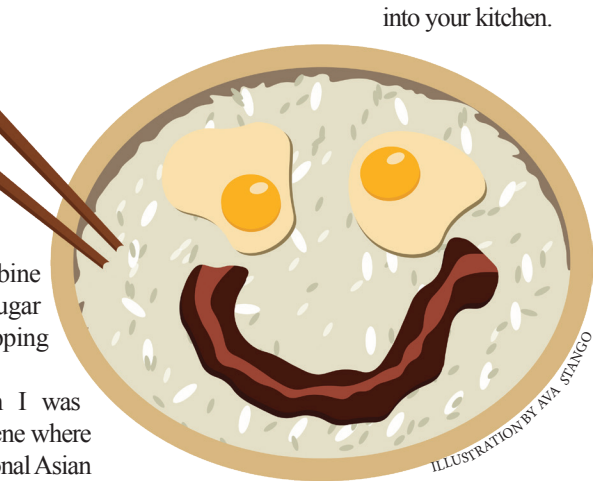


ILLUSTRATION BY AVA STANGO

Apple spent 19 years perfecting a rectangle, and its new CEO folded one

By ANTHONY ANGELILLO
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Viewers who turned out for Apple's fall event Sept. 9 expected a new beginning from the main person in charge of greeting them, and that's what they got.

"No, no, no, not me," Cook said. "That's your guy."

That guy was John Ternus, who became Apple's CEO Sept. 1 and was about to host his first keynote. Apple announced the change back in April, the board approved it unanimously and Cook became executive chairman.

Cook's 15 years will go down as a time period of massive growth for Apple. Since 2011, when Cook became CEO, Apple's market value climbed from roughly $350 billion to $4 trillion during his tenure. Yearly revenue went from $108 billion in fiscal year 2011 to more than $416 billion in fiscal year 2025.

The company counts more than 2.5 billion active devices, and the services Cook prioritized bring in over $100 billion a year. Apple Watch, Vision Pro and the biggest product released during his time, AirPods, are projected to pass $100 billion in total revenue this year, a decade after Apple introduced them.

However, Cook never changed the shape of the iPhone.

Ternus is the second person to run Apple since co-founder Steve Jobs. He joined the product design team in 2001 and became a vice president of hardware engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. Cook described him as having "the mind of an engineer, the soul of an innovator."

Cook used to open with "Good Morning." Ternus said "Hello." He also skipped the usual chip talk and led with privacy and artificial intelligence (AI), telling viewers that "not even Apple can access what's yours."

Then came the "One more thing…"

The iPhone Duo opens like a book to reveal a 7.6-inch screen, the largest ever on an iPhone. When closed, it's a 5.4-inch display roughly the size of a passport. Both screens share an aspect ratio, so content remains fluid. The frame of the Duo is mirror-polished grade 5 titanium, Touch ID sits in the side button rather than Face ID and the hinge runs on more than 100 components.

A nano-texture matte finish on the inner screen reduces glare and softens the crease. Two batteries run as one, rated for up to 24 hours when both screens are used equally. Split View puts two apps side by side on an iPhone for the first time. Apple says it is the thinnest iPhone ever built when opened.

The Duo starts at $1,999 for 256 GB of storage, with preorders beginning Oct. 16 and shipping Oct. 23.

Reporters who handled the device at Apple Park said the crease was visible at some angles and could be felt with a finger, though Apple hid it better than its competitors. There is no dedicated telephoto lens either, which will affect photographers.

The rest of the lineup includes the iPhone 18 Pro and Pro Max, with a smaller Dynamic Island; both gain a variable-aperture main camera. The A20 Pro is the first two-nanometer chip in an iPhone. With the upgraded processor, the Pro Max is rated for up to 45 hours of video playback.

Prices start at $1,199 and $1,299, each $100 above last year's models, with preorders starting Sept. 12 and releases Sept. 18.

Apple Watch Series 12 and Ultra 4 run on a new S11 chip and a health-sensing system that measures heart rate every 5 seconds and adds a Readiness score from 0 to 10. Prices remain the same at $399 and $799.

AirPods 5 include noise cancellation on both models starting at $129, and you can get swipe volume controls and longer battery life for an additional $20.

iOS 27 releases Sept. 14 with Siri rebuilt as Siri AI.

The updated Siri will be Ternus's first challenge as CEO. After two years of criticism and delays from Apple Intelligence, people are already skeptical of what Siri AI will deliver. Include the daily usage limits and expanded access coming with a fee; this can either make or break Ternus' first couple of months as CEO.

Cook spent 15 years proving Apple could sell the same rectangle better than anyone else. Ternus spent his first hour on stage selling something that expands that rectangle even more. The catch is the Duo is hardware his old team engineered, so the keynote was never really the test. That comes Oct. 23, when the thing has to open and close into somebody's pocket.

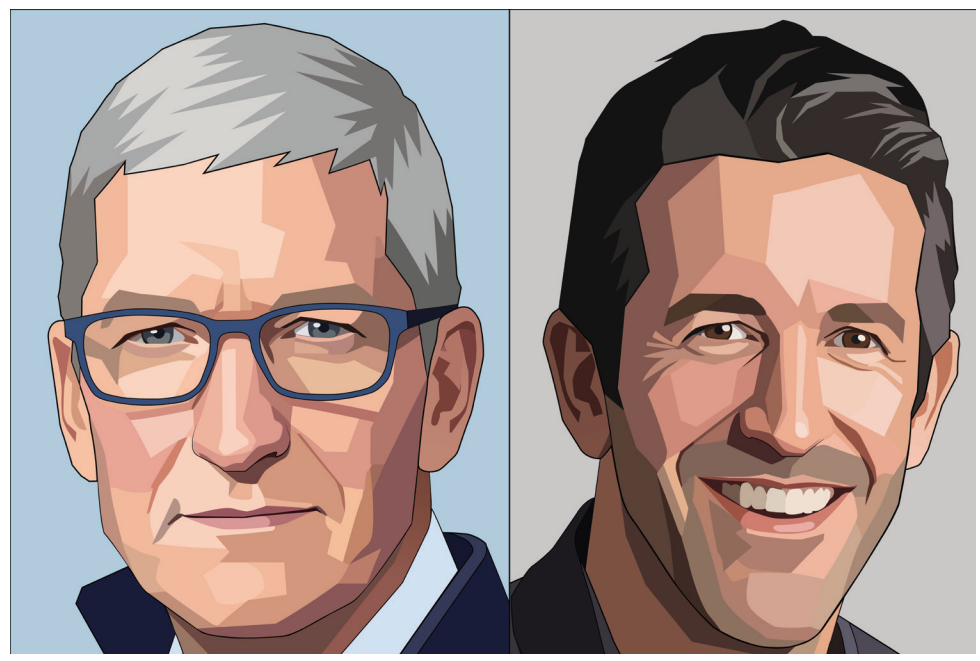


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