

Alumnus Eric Jones bringing skills to Food Network's 'Halloween Wars'

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Eric Jones studied in Alfred University's School of Art and Design from 1995 to 1997, then started working as a graphic designer in Olean. Over the years, he has expanded his graphic skills into caricature drawing and now is owner of his own company, where he draws caricatures for everyone from Hollywood celebrities to couples on their wedding days.

He's about to kick it up another notch.

Jones will appear on *Halloween Wars*, one of the most popular reality shows hosted by The Food Network, in a series that begins Sept. 13. Instead of drawing caricatures, he'll be carving pumpkins freehand into scary squash sculptures. He will be part of a three-person team that includes a cake artist and a sugar/pastry artist. That team will compete against five other teams for a hefty prize.

Halloween Wars pits teams of professional artists and chefs against each other, designing and creating the scariest (or yummiest) Halloween-themed treats. Six episodes of the competition will be broadcast each Sunday leading up to Halloween.

Jones has carved pumpkins before on popular television shows such as The Today Show, and, technically, he has

already carved the pumpkins for *Halloween Wars*. The competition has been taped; Jones says he cannot comment on what he carved or the outcome of the contest.

He continues to draw caricatures of people, running his company, Eric Jones Caricatures, from near Cuba, NY. He says he averages about 5,000 to 7,000 caricatures a year and estimates he has drawn more than 200,000 caricatures of individuals ranging from couples on their wedding days to celebrities such as Ernest Borgnine and Billy Bob Thornton. He also is the co-founder of Giveacaricature.com, which is based in Richburg, NY and was launched in 2005 as part of Leading Edge Gifts LLC.