



CHEFS DE COUTURE

NYC COOKS TRY MODELING ON FOR SIZE

MICHAEL CHERNOW ▶
(OF THE MEATBALL SHOP, NEAR RIGHT)
AND SEAN KAVANAGH-
DOWSETT (OF TEA & SYMPATHY AND
A SALT & BATTERY) FOR J.CREW

While it might not be obvious, the Meatball Shop's co-owner Michael Chernow, 31, has something fundamental in common with J. Crew, who hired him to model in their February 2012 catalog. They both sell simple, accessible and classic goods, whether it's his No. 1-selling dish, the naked-beef meatballs with tomato sauce, or a pair of basic jeans.

Chernow, whose good looks, natural style and Ford-model wife helped land him the gig, is a fan of the brand's "slim-fit, button-down, collared shirts." He admits to having six of their seven different variations.

For Sean Kavanagh-Dowsett, 45, landing in the pages of a J.Crew catalog was fun, but nothing new. Years ago, the blue-eyed co-owner of Tea & Sympathy and A Salt & Battery in the West Village modeled for a living, with a roster of clients that included English designers Katharine Hamnett and Paul Smith, as well as other high-fashion labels like Yohji Yamamoto and Prada. "It was nice to be dragged out of retirement," says Kavanagh-Dowsett.

Even so, the fashion world is never too far away at his restaurants. "We used to see Naomi [Campbell] and Kate [Moss] in here all the time," he says. "Grace Coddington, the editor at Vogue, loves our flapjacks."



Courtesy of J.Crew (2)

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