

MOMS ON A MISSION

ALPHARETTA RESIDENT TO CO-HOST SHOW FOR SAVVY MOMS



Rick Philabaum/Staff

Liwaza Green at home with daughters, from left, Kimani and Destiny. The Alpharetta resident is one of the hosts of a new television show for young mothers.

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Busy young mothers need look no further than their living rooms to find a resource that is both educational and empathetic.

"Real Moms, Real Stories, Real Savvy," a public television show documenting both the highs and lows of being a modern young mother, will premier in January.

Alpharetta resident Liwaza Green is one of three hosts of the series. She is a divorced mother of two. A former top executive at Atlanta-based LaFace Records, Ms. Green was instrumental in launching the careers of artists such as Usher and Outkast. She left the industry to become a full-time mother to daughters Destiny, 7, and Kimani, 4.

"It was an emotional roller coaster to leave my job because essentially you're giving up your dreams to raise children," Ms. Green said. "But I just think during those initial years it is important to interact with your kids."

Ms. Green graduated from Spelman College with a bachelor's degree in economics. Before moving to Alpharetta where she's lived for five years, she lived in Dunwoody. She became a part of the television show through her agent, Jen Kelly, who told her about the auditions.

"I found the fact that they were looking for real moms appealing," Ms. Green said. "Being

able to talk to other moms seemed like a wonderful opportunity."

Hundreds of mothers auditioned, and the 33-year-old was one of three that were chosen to host the show.

"I loved being on the show," Ms. Green said. "I learned so much from the experts and the other moms. I think it is going to be very successful."

The show is being promoted through a 10-city national mall tour that will culminate Nov. 11 through 13 at North Point Mall. The tour includes educational and interactive games for both mothers and children.

As for the show itself, each weekly, half-hour episode is targeted at Generation X moms ages 25 to 40 and will consist of three short educational stories with one emotional headliner.

Focus groups conducted by Morphogenix, the marketing company behind the show, revealed that modern moms are tired of the fluff associated with motherhood, such as cute toys and nursery decoration.

"They want the real deal," Kate Rolston, CEO of Morphogenix said. "That's what the show is. There are no actors and nobody is paid. We want to show the beautiful parts of motherhood, as well as the hard parts."

Ms. Green echoed this sentiment. "Our mission in this show was to honor mothers who contribute to society and the hard work

that goes into parenting," she said.

One of her roles in the show is introducing special topics, such as a book entitled "The One Armed Cook: A Kitchen Survival Guide for New Parents" by Cynthia Stevens Graubart and Catherine Fliegel. Green described it as a cookbook for busy parents who want to prepare quick, healthy meals.

Today, Ms. Green and her daughters are making a name for themselves in the entertainment industry. They have appeared together in numerous national television commercials and print ads. "It's a lot of fun working with family," she said. "There's a natural chemistry there." Destiny has appeared in the major motion picture "The Fighting Temptations," and will be featured in an upcoming HBO show called "Lucky Louie." Kimani recently made her debut in the Civic Center's Production of "The Color Purple."

The girls attend Barnwell Elementary School where Ms. Green is sure to communicate with her daughters' teachers about their careers since they have to miss a lot of school. "The teachers send schoolwork," she said. There are hired tutors on the sets, and three hours of school work are required each day. Ms. Green is also an "active mom" by making sure the girls do their work. "It takes organization and planning to make sure the school and teachers will work with you," she said. "They've been very helpful."