



SEX ON TV

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Biographies and Contact Information

YVETTE BOWSER

Executive Producer/Showrunner

Half & Half

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Before reaching the age of 31, writer-producer Yvette Lee Bowser became the first African-American woman to have two network programs on air simultaneously—*Living Single* and *Lush Life*. With *Living Single*, Yvette also earned the distinction of being the first African-American woman to create and produce a hit primetime series.

Bowser is currently the executive producer of UPN's new hit series, *Half & Half*, a comedy that explores the growing relationship between two half-sisters. Not surprisingly, this series captures what is most relevant in Yvette's life today – family. Born in Philadelphia and raised in Los Angeles, Yvette attended Stanford University where she graduated with degrees in both political science and psychology. During her senior year Yvette had an opportune meeting with Bill Cosby who invited her to join the production staff of his new series *A Different World*. Yvette's colleagues immediately recognized her intuitive understanding of the comedy form and she progressed from apprentice writer to producer during her five-year tenure with the show. Subsequently, Bowser became the producer of ABC's popular *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper*, before creating what would become one of Fox's most successful shows, *Living Single*. *Living Single* was the #1 comedy in Black households for its entire five-year run.

Although she has executive produced and shepherded five series onto the primetime schedule, a rarity in itself, Bowser still finds time to pursue community involvement. She contributes to many organizations, including the NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., The HollyRod Foundation, which provides assistance to those who suffer from Parkinson's and The Mary Ella Foundation, which works to improve educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth. Throughout her career Yvette has shared her unique point of view, as her work captures the realities of the world with clarity, compassion, authenticity and humor.

JANE BROWN, PH.D.

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Jane Brown is a professor of undergraduate and graduate courses in mass communication theory and effects at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. This year she edited the book *Sexual Teens, Sexual Media: Investigating Media's Influence on Adolescent Sexuality*. Dr. Brown is currently conducting a major research project funded by the National Institutes for Health to study the impact of sexual media on adolescents. She received her B.A. in journalism from the University of Kentucky-Lexington and her M.A. and Ph.D. in mass communication research from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin, and was a Fellow at the Gannett Center for Media Studies in New York. Dr. Brown's research focuses on the mass media's effects on adolescents' health and how the media might be used to reduce unhealthy behaviors. She recently completed a project that evaluated anti-violence public service announcements created by the cable television industry and previously was co-investigator on a National Cancer Institute-funded project that designed and evaluated media campaigns aimed at keeping adolescents non-smokers. She is co-editor of the books *Media, Sex, and the Adolescent*, and *The Media, Social Science and Social Policy for Children*, and is the author of numerous articles in academic journals.

GARRY HART, PH.D.

President
Paramount Television Production
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Appointed president of Paramount Television Production in 2002, Garry Hart oversees the development and production of primetime series and telefilms for Paramount Network Television, Viacom Productions and Big Ticket Television, which includes such popular series as *Frasier*, *Becker*, *Ed*, *JAG*, *Enterprise*, *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, *Soulfood* and *Girlfriends*, among others.

Prior to joining Paramount, Hart was senior vice president of current programs for Universal Television. Series under Hart's tenure at Universal from 1987 – 1993 ranged from the esteemed hit dramas *Miami Vice*, *Northern Exposure*, *The Equalizer*, *Quantum Leap*, *Murder, She Wrote*, and *Law & Order*, to the long-running situation comedies *Coach* and *Major Dad*. Hart had been senior vice president, research for Lorimar-Telepictures, Corp., which he held after a four-year tenure at Paramount. He began his career in entertainment at Paramount in 1979 as a manager, and the vice president of research, shifting to a director of comedy development post in 1982.

Hart graduated with both a Masters of Arts and Doctorate degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He performed his undergraduate studies at Queens College, C.U.N.Y.

MATT JAMES

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Matt James is senior vice president for communications and media programs and executive director of kaisernetwork.org of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, one of the nation's largest private foundations devoted exclusively to health.

Mr. James spent ten years working on Capitol Hill as a communications and political aide to Congressman Morris K. Udall, Senator Dale Bumpers, and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He also worked as an advisor and strategist on many House and Senate campaigns. In 1994, President Clinton appointed Mr. James to the Board of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation. He also serves on the Board of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health and on advisory committees for the Council on Foundations and Independent Sector. Before his Washington posts, he was a newscaster and reporter for WMUK-FM, a National Public Radio affiliate in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

DALE KUNKEL, PH.D.

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Dr. Kunkel is professor of communication at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He studies children and media topics from several diverse perspectives, including television effects research as well as assessments of media industry content and practices. He was awarded a Congressional Science Fellowship from the Society for Research in Child Development in 1984-85, during which time he served as an advisor to Congress on children and media issues. Dr. Kunkel has delivered invited testimony at hearings before the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Federal Communications Commission. Dr. Kunkel recently completed work as a principal investigator on the National Television Violence Study (NTVS), a three-year examination of the risks associated with different types of violent portrayals, commissioned by the National Cable Television Association. The NTVS project, which evaluated nearly 10,000 programs, is widely recognized as the largest scientific study of television content yet conducted.

JUDITH LEVINE

Author

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For more than 20 years, Judith Levine has written about the ways history, culture, and politics are reflected in sexuality and intimate life. She is the author of *Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children From Sex* (University of Minnesota Press, 2002) and *My Enemy, My Love: Women, Men, and the Dilemmas of Gender* (Doubleday/Anchor, 1993). She has contributed to dozens of national publications, both popular and academic, including *Harper's*, *The Village Voice*, *My Generation*, *Index on Censorship*, *Salon*, and *Nerve*. She wrote "Shooting the Messenger: Why Censorship Won't Stop Violence" for the Media Coalition after the Columbine shootings, and is currently working on a book about her father, "Alzheimer's Disease, and the Meanings of Personhood," to be published by Free Press. Ms. Levine lives in Brooklyn, NY, and Hardwick, VT.

RICK MATER

Senior Vice President, Broadcast Standards

The WB Television Network

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Rick Mater, the Senior Vice President of Broadcast Standards is one of the longest-tenured employees at The WB Television Network. He joined the fifth broadcast network in April, 1995, three months after The WB's initial launch, and has been in charge of broadcast standards ever since. In his position, Mr. Mater is responsible for overseeing all programming on The WB for content. This includes dramas, comedies, Kids'WB!, on-air promotional announcements, commercial clearance and development projects.

Mr. Mater is one of the most respected people in his field and is often invited to participate on prestigious panels along with other industry leaders. He has taken part in such discussions at a number of academic institutions including the University of Southern California's Annenberg School and Loyola Marymount University. Mr. Mater began working in broadcast standards in 1980 at ABC. In 1984, he moved to CBS to work in the Program Practices department. Mr. Mater remained at CBS until 1986, and then spent two years as a broadcast standards consultant for television production companies producing an array of projects including fact-based movies and syndicated shows. He moved to NBC in 1989 where he became Manager of Program Standards, focusing primarily on fact-based movies and miniseries before coming to The WB. At NBC, Mr. Mater oversaw *Quantum Leap*, *ER*, *NewsRadio* and other primetime entertainment fare.

Mr. Mater began his broadcasting career in the program and news departments at KCBS-TV, a network owned-and-operated affiliate in Los Angeles. During his tenure, Mr. Mater was nominated for a Los Angeles Area Emmy Award as a documentary producer. Mr. Mater received a Bachelor of Arts in history from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and earned a Masters Degree in Communications Management at the Annenberg School.

JUDY MULLER

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Judy Muller reports for *World News Tonight with Peter Jennings*, *Nightline*, *20/20* and other ABC News broadcasts in addition to writing a regular column for ABCNEWS.com. Since she joined ABC News in 1990, she has covered such stories as the trial of Rodney King and the subsequent riots in Los Angeles in 1992, the 1994 Los Angeles earthquake and the O.J. Simpson case. She is a regular contributor to NPR's *Morning Edition*, and is the author of *Now This...Radio, Television and the Real World*. Prior to joining ABC News, Ms. Muller spent nine years as a correspondent for CBS News, where she was a contributor to *CBS News Sunday Morning* and the *CBS Weekend News*. For CBS News Radio, she anchored *First Line Report* and *Correspondent's Notebook* and was a summer anchor for *The Osgood File*. She also anchored hourly newscasts and covered the space shuttle program, both national political conventions in 1988 and the 1988 Bush presidential campaign. Ms. Muller has received several journalism honors, including a Colorado Sigma Delta Chi Award in 1981, an American Bar Association Award in 1980 and a New Jersey Broadcasters Association Award in 1979. She was also part of the *Nightline* team that received a duPont-Columbia Award and an Emmy Award for coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles riots and for the O.J. Simpson case.

VICKY RIDEOUT, M.A.

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Vicky Rideout is a vice president of the Kaiser Family Foundation and director of the Foundation's Program for the Study of Entertainment Media and Health. At the Foundation, Ms. Rideout developed and launched public education campaigns with several television networks, including MTV, BET and UPN. The public service ads and full-length programming she helped develop have received numerous awards, including a national Emmy Award for best public service announcement, a Cine Golden Eagle award, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Ribbon of Hope Award, and several Telly and Aegis Awards for advertising. Ms. Rideout currently oversees the Foundation's research agenda on the impact of entertainment media on health. She has directed numerous media-related studies on topics such as children's media use, sexual content on television, the V-Chip, teens and the Internet, and the impact on viewers of health information on TV.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Ms. Rideout was the founding director of the Children & The Media program at the national children's advocacy group Children Now. Ms. Rideout also has fifteen years of experience as a senior policy adviser and speechwriter to numerous government officeholders and political candidates. She graduated with honors from Harvard University and has a Masters Degree in American History from Syracuse University.