

Documentary Proposal by Louise Ross

**AREN'T YOU . . . . . 'S MUM?**

Mothers everywhere tell a universal story when they talk about their relationship with their grown daughters. But not all mother-daughter stories are set against the backdrop of a daughter's celebrity.

While all mothers are confronted by common issues in their relationship with their adult daughters, mothers of celebrities must navigate an added set of challenges, possibly accompanied by opportunities, wrought by their daughter's fame.

**AREN'T YOU . . . . . 'S MUM?** will explore the impact of Hollywood stardom on five Australian mothers: Janelle Kidman, Miv Watts, Judy Collette, June Blanchett, Anna Griffiths -- mothers of Nicole, Naomi, Toni, Cate, and Rachel. Utilizing cinéma vérité style we'll observe these mums – colorful and interesting women with distinct personalities and perspectives – as they step out from behind their daughter's fame.

Rather than one-mum-at-a-time stories, **AREN'T YOU . . . . . 'S MUM?** will build interest, tension, and understanding, by juxtaposing various themes and mums in a manner that ultimately will either debunk or uphold preconceived notions about what it's like to be the mother of a celebrity daughter.

Some of those themes are:

- The kinds of opportunities available to the mums because they're mothers of celebrities;
- whether she integrates her daughter's fame into her own life in a way she finds enriching;
- whether the daughter's fame enhances their relationship or is generally an impediment;
- whether she is constrained by her daughter's fame or needs arising from that fame;
- whether the fame of the celebrity daughter affects the mum's relationship with her other children and or unrelated persons;

- whether the mum's sense of identity is affected by the daughter's fame;
- whether the mum experiences a loss of privacy due to her daughter's fame; and
- to what extent media content about her celebrity daughter affects the mother- daughter relationship?

As the mums reflect on these and other organically occurring issues, we will discover how their lives, and their relationships with their highly visible daughters, are similar and different from mothers all over the world. In the end, we'll learn where the opportune experiences really lie for these mums. Is it, as popular myth might hold as true, in the potential for material advantages, or divergently, in the emotionally enriching potential inherent in the challenges of being the mum of a celebrity?

**Length:** The length of **AREN'T YOU . . . . . 'S MUM** is dependent on the number of mothers willing to participate. Ideally, all five mums will want to participate; in which case, anticipating that the market reach for this documentary is prime-time television, a feature length of approximately 60 minutes is estimated.

**Setting:** Since the mothers reside on the east coast of Australia between Sydney and Melbourne, filming will take place in and around their homes and neighborhoods.

**AREN'T YOU . . . . . 'S MUM** has the potential to lay the foundation for a sequel documentary. It is expected that the five mums will touch on the impact of the daughter's celebrity status on the mothers' relationships with her other children. Given that it's not the intention of this first documentary to delve into the impact of the actresses' celebrity on their sibling relationships, this naturally sets up an opportunity to explore this topic in a sequel.