

## Lincoln Heights - A New Kind of Family

by Phyllis V. Du'Gas

### ABC Family Channel scores a hit....

What do the hit shows, Touched By An Angel, Soul Food, 21 Jump Street, Alias, Lost, Prison Break and 24 have in common? A formula for success, which can be seen each Tuesday evening on ABC's Family Channel with the new original series, "**Lincoln Heights.**"

Lincoln Heights is a step in the right direction of *a new kind of family* programming brought to us by the ABC affiliate.

The show surrounds the Sutton Family, led by Eddie Sutton, who makes the decision to move his family out of their small apartment and into a house in his former urban neighborhood of Lincoln Heights. Ex-ESPN's lead star quarterback from "Playmakers," **Russell Hornsby** is superb and strong in his role of Police Officer, Father to his three children, Cassie, Lizzie and Tay and sensitive husband to his wife Jenn Sutton.

The secret to the success of this show is found in the talents of Executive Producer **Kevin Hooks**, probably most remembered for his acting role as Morris Thorpe in the television series, "*The White Shadow*" which ran four seasons from 1978 – 1981. In 1982 Kevin went behind the camera and has served as Director for Lost, Alias, 24, as well as two pilots of the series Philly. He is also the Executive Producer and Director of Fox's hit drama, PRISON BREAK. In 2000 he was the Executive Producer of the short-lived, but excellent CBS television series "City of Angels" starring Blair Underwood and Vivica Fox.

Executive Producer and award winning writer **Kathleen McGhee-Anderson** is also no stranger to television. She was the Executive Producer of the fifth season of "Soul Food." Her writing credits include, "Little House on the Prairie," "Benson," "227," "Touched by An Angel," "413 Hope Street," "South Central," "The Cosby Show" and Any Day Now."

Add to that writing mix, Larry Moskowitz, (New York Undercover) and Yolanda Lawrence (Judging Amy) and it's easy to understand why Lincoln Heights is such a moving tribute to family life as we know it today. The show touches difficult issues of our time including incest, stalking, gang violence and teenage coming of age issues, in a very humanistic fashion. The writing is not at all predictable as is the case with many dramatic series on television today.

And by the way, I failed to mention another impressive part of this successful mix: *the music of Stanley Clarke.*

Other cast members include, **Nicki Micheaux** (The Shield, Six Feet Under), as Jenn Sutton; **Erica Hubbard**, (Boston Public, Save The Last Dance) as Cassie Sutton, **Rhyan Brown** (That's So Raven) as Lizzie Sutton, and **Mishon Ratcliff** (Akeelah & The Bee)

as Tay Sutton.

The show originally aired in January 2007. It can be seen Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. on The Family Channel and re-airs on Fridays at 10 p.m. on the West Coast.

If you haven't seen this remarkable series, you're missing out. Watch it with your family.

To find out more click the following link:

<http://a51.abcfamily.go.com/shows/lincolnheights/>