

PWH ENTREPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

Claresa Baggs

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Claresa Baggs is the founder of the production company Red Petunia Productions. In addition to being a Workshop Facilitator, Inspirational Speaker, and Humanitarian, Claresa is also the Creator and Executive Producer of the multiple award-winning talk show and podcast *Still Surviving*, *Thriving During COVID-19*, and the upcoming documentary, *Consequence*.

She is also an active member of Women in Film & Television (W.I.F.T.).

As a survivor of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, Claresa uses her numerous platforms to help guests share their stories of survival in a safe and supportive environment. Claresa believes that when guests share their stories of triumph, they, in turn, provide a sense of hope and encouragement to viewers who may share similar experiences.

Claresa is focused on influencing change and reducing barriers to the improvement of quality of life for the voiceless. Claresa Baggs Speaks Life!

Claresa presently resides in Jacksonville, Florida, celebrating 32 years of marriage to Angelo Baggs, Sr., and sharing three incredible children and six grandchildren.

Who is Claresa when she isn't interviewing and shining a light on others?

- I am an avid reader and writer. I crave learning new things and sharing that knowledge. I enjoy seeing the spark of excitement in the eyes of others when they walk in newness.
- I started the blog "The Penney Dropped" to share my personal life affirmative lessons.
- I am also in preproduction for our groundbreaking documentary, *Consequence*, which will take an unprecedented look into the silent world of child suicide influenced by media, religion, the legal system, medicine, and mental health.
- I enjoy speaking at various engagements, leading empowerment workshops and workgroups.

When did you discover your gift for connecting and aiding women in their healing process?

I believe at some level I have always known. As the eldest of twelve children, it became second nature to reflect a positive influence, particularly in our household of discontent. I have many "off the record" conversations, which is a driving force behind why I became a Certified Life Coach.

You are the host of the show "Still surviving" Growing up as you share your mission behind this show?

I am not the host of this incredible show. I am the Creator and Executive Producer. I aspire to teach people that we are more alike than we are different. No matter our backgrounds, where we grew up, our religions, language, race, or gender, we are more alike than we are different. So often, when we are experiencing our personal version of hell, we falsely assume that no one else could possibly understand what we are going through, and because of that, it is, unfortunately, true that sometimes we lose hope and see no way out.

But it is when our guests open their mouths and speak their truths, it is then that hope can be revived, and viewers/listeners experience an awakening and realization that after all of their pain and heartache, there truly is "Life After."

How do you balance motherhood and business?

Having raised three phenomenal children, and after 33 years of marriage, my husband Angelo and I are empty nesters. We are excited to travel this road together. He is my absolute biggest supporter!

Where do you see your platform in the next 3-5 years?

We plan to begin filming in different cities, states, and eventually internationally. Season Four will be filmed in Spanish with all Spanish-speaking cast members and guests. We will share stories of surviving and thriving from across the globe. The desire is that *Still Surviving* will be optioned by a major streaming or television platform. There's a purpose to everything that we go through in life. My primary focus is to save lives.

What is your definition of a Pretty Woman Who Hustles?

A Pretty Woman Who Hustles exudes excellence and is an unstoppable force of nature. She is fierce and fearless! She walks boldly in her Purpose. She leaves strength and beauty in her wake.

