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A Who's Who of Hip Parents

By **Katrina Andrews**

We've all known people who don't follow the crowd. The artists hungry to starve for the sake of their art, the musicians who follow wherever the beat leads – they're often the people we secretly admire. But what happens when these hip people become parents? Do they become just regular folks, like the rest of us? Here are a few who have become moms and dads without sacrificing their dreams.



■ **Lili Bernard** is an artist who specializes in oil painting. Out of her studio in China Town, she not only creates phenomenal works of art, she also runs a nonprofit youth mentoring fine arts program (www.lilibernard.com). And she has five sons under the age of 10! Rafael (9), Isaiah (8), Elias (6), Uriel (5) and Joshua (2).

Q: Do you have a unique hobby?

A: Outside of playing with colors? Yes, giving birth!

Q: What is your parenting philosophy?

A: To regard my children as gifts of heaven on Earth.

Q: What's the coolest thing about your job?

A: Painting in the presence of my children, who are my greatest Earthly inspiration and my most valuable art critics.

■ **Joe Cannizzaro** (aka Joey Bloey) toured with his Grammy®-nominated punk-metal band, Green Jelly (formerly Green Jello), for nearly 20 years, and he and his wife, Lynn, saw the world. Today, among the toys and trikes that fill their home are his five gold records. Cannizzaro says he's happy that he was on the road before their daughter, Olivia Rose (4), came along. He worked as a studio videographer and Lynn as a training supervisor on the first two Shrek movies, and both have worked on a handful of other DreamWorks projects. Now he loves working as a videographer and editor, happily out of the limelight.



Q: What is your parenting philosophy?

A: Not so much a philosophy ... I just take my time. Spend long periods of time with my kid. Enjoy every minute. Make time for her. Cherish this little gift.

Q: What's the coolest thing about being a parent?

A: Being able to hang out with the coolest little kid on the planet.



■ **Ed Protiva** is a set decorator for feature films. That's how he met his wife, Sally, who has taken a leave of absence to raise their three kids, Sierra (8), Hannah (5) and Jo (3). Protiva says that when he's not working 12-plus hours on set, he

takes his kids skiing or kayaking and gets a chance to catch up on everyone's lives.

Q: Can you recall a unique experience you had with your job that involved your kids?

A: Most of the framed kid art in the Adam Sandler movie *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry* is actually my daughters'. They worked for free but received some nice framing in return.

Q: What's the coolest thing about being a parent?

A: I enjoy the energy, laughter, inquisition, creativity and lust for life that my kids have.

■ You may recognize **Kristen Eykel** from the original Lubriderm "Later, Gator" commercial or from her days as a VJ on VH1. Currently, she is a host for Court TV, which requires her to travel monthly from her home in Bell Canyon to Atlanta. As an environmentalist for many years, she recently decided to produce her own TV series about the environment. And she juggles it all with two children, Grayson (6) and Kyra (1).



Q: What's the coolest thing about your job?

A: That I get to work some intense days and then have some days off with them.

Q: Can you recall a unique work experience that involved your kids?

A: I took both kids with me to an audition, and as I got in the room, I hear my new baby start to cry and within seconds, I have a let down and now have two dribbling stains blossoming on the front of my blouse. Needless to say, I did not get the job!

■ **Rachel Varla** started her own magazine in 1998 called *Varla*, a publication devoted to music, art, alternative culture and pinup photography. She is also working with www.monstergarage.com, creating video footage of interviews with musicians and models, custom car and chopper shops and more. She balances it all and is a mom to her daughter, Sofia (12).



Q: Do you have a unique hobby?

A: I am currently working on customizing my 1967 Chevrolet Impala low-rider.

Q: What is your parenting philosophy?

A: Children are not possessions, and they need to learn how to grow up and become functioning adults in society. They live up to what you expect from them; if you talk down to them, they behave as such. Give them a little responsibility, and they grow and live up to it.

Katrina Andrews is a hip Encino mother of two and a freelance writer.