

MOTHERS IN THE MIDDLE



9 LAMBS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS A LAUREN HOLLINGSWORTH FILM MOTHERS IN THE MIDDLE
EDITED BY INBAL B. LESSNER MUSIC BY DANIEL LESSNER CINEMATOGRAPHY STEFANOS KAFATOS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LYLE GAMM
PRODUCERS LAUREN HOLLINGSWORTH INBAL B. LESSNER JAMARA GHALAYINI DIRECTED BY LAUREN HOLLINGSWORTH



INTRODUCTION

The vérité-driven documentary **MOTHERS IN THE MIDDLE** takes an intimate look at the unique challenges of being a full-time working mother in America today.

Directed by Lauren Hollingsworth

Produced by Lauren Hollingsworth, Inbal B. Lessner and Jamara Ghalayini

Executive Produced by Lyle Gamm

TRAILER

www.mothersinthemiddle.com

CONTACT

310-733-9252

lauren@MothersInTheMiddle.com

www.MothersInTheMiddle.com

facebook.com/MothersInTheMiddle

twitter.com/WorkingMomMovie

MOTHERS
IN
THE **MIDDLE**



STORY

Four women juggle busy careers and raucous kids in this intimate portrait of middle-class working mothers. Filmmaker Lauren Hollingsworth explores the impossible balance of work and motherhood in today's America, as seen through the eyes of a teacher, a real estate agent, a fashion executive and an actress. Told through the lens of the filmmaker's own journey, including heartfelt interviews with her own mother, the film raises questions about the sacrifices working women make in their careers and personal lives when children enter the equation.

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FROM THE FILMMAKER

I waited until the last possible moment to become a parent. When I did, I joined a select group of privileged women – I have an MFA, a successful freelance career, a supportive husband. I also had a healthy dose of cynicism. I wasn't going to trade in my career as a photographer and TV producer for homemade baby food and Mommy & Me.

Then I had my son, and traveling for work was no longer realistic. I chose jobs closer to home; I pumped breast milk in a bathroom stall. The logistics of motherhood began to take over. I was being assimilated into a system I had vowed to resist.

I began work on Mothers in the Middle in 2014, following four working moms who were at career and personal crossroads. Their struggles and my own offer a rarely seen, intimate portrait of full-time, middle-income, working mothers. It's the story of major life decisions made amid endless loads of laundry and busy jobs, and a group of women whose stories light a clear path towards change.

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KEY PRODUCTION TEAM



DIRECTOR / PRODUCER
LAUREN HOLLINGSWORTH

An award-winning theater director and photographer, Lauren received a Master of Fine Arts in Cinema-Television from the University of Southern California. As a television producer, she spent over a decade working on a variety of documentary series, including Participant Media's *Welcome to Fairfax*, the CBS film *Summer Dreams*, and the Emmy-nominated *It Gets Better*. Lauren is a founder and board member of Hollywood's Sacred Fools Theater Company, a small theater devoted to the artists' ensemble and the production of original works. *Mothers in the Middle* is her directorial debut.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
LYLE GAMM

A documentary film and TV producer, Lyle has worked with some of the industry's most successful filmmakers, including Morgan Spurlock (*Supersize Me*), R.J. Cutler (*The War Room*), Alex Gibney and Eva Orner (Academy Award winning, *Taxi to the Dark Side*), Brett Morgan (*On The Ropes*) and Alison Ellwood (*History of the Eagles*). Lyle was the senior producer on Brett Morgan's Peabody Award winning series *Nimrod Nation* and a consulting producer on R.J. Cutler's *The September Issue*. He also produced Cutler's short film *Fish* about celebrity chef Jon Shook. Lyle has spent over a decade working in non-fiction television, producing documentary series for major networks including Bravo, CMT, OWN, NBC, and ABC. For the past four years, Lyle has acted as VP of Original Programming at Pivot TV, Participant Media's television network.

KEY PRODUCTION TEAM



PRODUCER / EDITOR
INBAL LESSNER

An Emmy nominated producer and editor, Inbal was an additional editor on Natalie Portman's *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. She also produced and edited *Brave Miss World*, the documentary about Linor Abargil, who was raped 6 weeks before she won the Miss World pageant. The film was screened to members of U.S. Congress, received an Emmy nomination for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking, and is a Netflix Exclusive. Inbal was an Additional Editor on Davis Guggenheim's *Teach*, a 2-hour documentary special for CBS, and on *Spent*, his film about the "unbanked" in America. She edited and co-produced the internationally acclaimed *I Have Never Forgotten You* about Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, a Special Selection at the Berlin International Film Festival.



PRODUCER
JAMARA GHALAYINI

Formerly a Senior Business Consultant with Deloitte Consulting, Jamara worked as a project manager for clients such as Warner Brothers Studios and Agilent Technologies, coordinating finance and development-based projects for these and other global entities. She founded and branded Pumpkinheads, a children's luxury boutique, and is also a founding committee member for the March of Dimes babyLOVE event, now coined "Celebration of Babies". She has also organized fundraising for other non-profits including No Limits, Present Now, Operation School Bell, the Cedar Sinai Hospital NICU, and the Childrens' Action Network.

KEY PRODUCTION TEAM



CINEMATOGRAPHER
STEFANOS KAFATOS

Stefanos Kafatos is a cinematographer with fifteen years' experience in documentary film and television. After receiving a Master of Fine Arts in Cinema-Television from the University of Southern California, he went to work for National Geographic, traveling around the world on the show *Microkillers*, documenting the effects of pathogens on communities around the world. He worked with director Morgan Spurlock on his film *Mansome*, and has captured intimate and emotional moments in documentary television for the Sundance Channel, the Travel Channel, ABC, TLC, MTV, Bravo and Discovery.



COMPOSER
DANIEL LESSNER

Daniel Lessner has composed main themes and soundtracks for more than 70 films, documentaries and television shows. His most recent work includes the main themes and scores for ABC's *500 Questions*, TBS' *Americas Greatest Makers* and *America's Next Weatherman*. Lessner collaborated with Hans Zimmer and Ben Harper on the Emmy Nominated Feature Documentary, *Brave Miss World*, which premiered on Netflix. He has created the themes and scores for History Channel's *That's Impossible!* as well as the score for the short film *AWOL*, starring David Morse and written by Shane Black, for which he won the silver medal for Best Soundtrack at the Park City Film Festival. Lessner has performed as a concert pianist in numerous television shows, and in the United Airlines' ads playing Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue accompanied by members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

KEY PRODUCTION CREDITS

directed and produced by
Lauren Hollingsworth

produced and edited by
Inbal B. Lessner

producer
Jamara Ghalayini

executive producer
Lyle Gamm

written by
Kaitlin McLaughlin
Inbal B. Lessner
Lauren Hollingsworth

cinematographer
Stefanos Kafatos

music by
Daniel Lessner

consulting editor
Doug Blush

sound editor and re-recording mixer
Lihi Orbach

policy consultant
Sarah Jane Glynn

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KEY PRODUCTION CREDITS

featuring

Ellen Jane Hollingsworth
Dashiell Goldman-Hollingsworth
Lauren Hollingsworth
Jeff Marlow

the Rice-Porter family

Jen
Matt
Zoe
Desmond

the Quinn family

Tanja
Bruce
Noah
Nyla

the LoCicero / Jann family

Lisa
Michael
Lukas
Verity

Roberta LoCicero
Edith Yesenia Barrera

the Kureshi family

Jessica
Faisal
Hassan
Zakariya

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