

STRAIGHT TALK WITH Rozonda "CHILLI" Thomas

Interview and words by: Allison Kupel

Describing the television show *Fake Off* and Gaining Inspiration for TLC's Next Tour

"The reason [the show] is called *Fake Off* is because the groups are given themes from iconic concepts, movies, cartoons, television shows, and stuff that everyone's familiar with. Then they have to put their best 'Fake' on it. You know when you watch something and you feel like, 'Wow! That was almost just like the original?' That's what the art of Faking is. It's not necessarily what their gills are, but it's how they are entertaining you; the way they do it... I look at some of those elements like the shadowing and the lighting and stuff like that. I'm definitely interested in that as far as [TLC's] show on stage, because I saw a lot of things in these performances that could take our show to the next level."

Chilli Continues to Have a Recurring Dream about the late Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes

"I've had dreams where in the dream she's alive. But it's crazy, because in my dream I know that she passed away but when I see her I'm like, 'Oh My God! We have to let everybody know that you're alive!' It's like that. I haven't had one of those dreams in a few months, but that's how it's when I dream

about her. Her passing was definitely one of those times when I hoped she was pranking us. She would do stuff like that. She would just go missing. That was the one time I would have been alright with it if it had been that. Unfortunately, it was not."

On Raising Her Now Teenage Son, Iron Austin (Dad Is Famed Music Producer, Dallas Austin)

"The teenage years are my least favorite, though my son is phenomenal. He does not get in trouble and he's not a bad kid. But the fact that they think they know so much... They just have to go through certain things, become more mature and get that wisdom. You want to shield them from all the bad, but you can't do that."

"[And] he definitely has the music bug. It's in his DNA, he couldn't help it, I guess [laughs]. I just wanted to wait and see what he would show me. I didn't guide him into this, although he's been around it his whole life. He's a drummer, he writes music and he's really good."

Chilli Gushes Over Famous TLC Fans

"Michael Jackson had the What About Your Friends dance in *Remember The Time*. I was totally in love with Michael Jackson, so to see that, I couldn't breathe! Or Prince saying, 'TLC is my favorite group,' and you're like, 'What?!' Bette Midler, as iconic as she is, she covered *Waterfalls*, and she said some really sweet words in an interview recently. That is crazy to me! It's been good on so many levels when anybody says those things about us, because it continues to justify certain things. We're so happy that we did not go against what we really wanted to do or say. Sometimes those things got us in trouble, but I think the majority of the time it worked for us. The fact that it inspired people or caught their attention just means everything."



Watch Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas on "Fake Off" every Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday at 10/9c. Also on CNN on Twitter @ChilliTLC.