

'Renewed glamour' meets politics on 'The Real Housewives of DC,' starring White House party crashers

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HO'Real Housewives of DC' (l.-r.) Catherine Ommanney, Stacie Turner, Mary Amons, Lynda Erkiletian and Michaelae Salahi.

If there's one thing the people behind Bravo's "[The Real Housewives of DC](#)" want viewers to know, it's that the show is not all about [White House](#) crashers [Tareq](#) and [Michaelae Salahi](#).

"This show cannot be defined by that one incident," [Andy Cohen](#), senior vice president of original programming and development at Bravo, tells The News. "It is one-20th of the story we're telling."

"The Real Housewives of DC," premiering Thursday at 9, will follow the lives of five women living and working in the capital. They include Mary Schmidt Amons, founder of the charity Labels for Love and co-founder of the District Sample Sale; [Lynda Erkiletian](#), founder of [T.H.E. Artist Agency](#) for stylists and models; Catherine (Cat) Ommanney, an author; [Stacie Scott Turner](#), a [Harvard MBA](#) with a successful real-estate practice; and Michaelae Salahi.

Salahi and her husband, Tareq, allegedly crashed a state dinner last year, leading to widespread panic about security at the White House. A federal investigation into the incident is continuing, but the Salahis have held to the position that they were invited.

Viewers will get a chance to see the couple getting ready for the event, in the limo on the way to it, and at the gates outside the White House - but that's where the cameras stopped.

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"None of our crew attended the dinner," says executive producer [Abby Greensfelder](#) of [Half Yard Productions](#). "We found out [about the alleged security breach] the same way as the rest of [America](#) did."

Greensfelder echoes Cohen's statements about how the incident plays only a small part in the drama of the series and doesn't even happen until the end of the season.

As a native Washingtonian herself, Greensfelder is looking forward to bringing attention to the nation's capital.

"We're excited to bring the D.C. flavor to the franchise, especially at this time, when the city has a renewed glamour," says Greensfelder. "Each of the shows has its own unique personality, and D.C., with its political backdrop, provides a great setting for drama and smart entertainment."

Certainly the cast readily ignores the old saying about not discussing politics among friends, jumping in right in the first episode with a heated debate about [President Obama](#) versus [George W. Bush](#).

"Politics and race, those subjects are kind of taboo in other parts of the country, but

they're open and accepted in D.C.," says Turner.

"Everyone's got different opinions - that's what makes the world go 'round," adds Ommanney, who is relatively new to the city. "If we all thought the same, life would be very dull."

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