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## The Real Housewives of DC Husbands

THURSDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2010 10:41 BY KATHRYN SCOTT PALOMBI - PHOTOS BY VAL CAVALHERI

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### For These Reality Househusbands Life is Often...Well, Just Reality

There is a debate going on in Washington, DC, and it has nothing to do with FBI investigations or the social faux pas of uninvited guests. According to Rich Amons, husband of "The Real Housewives of DC" reality show star Mary Amons, "Throughout the show, it always came down to the sweaters or suits, and thank goodness I got Jason to kill the sweaters." So it goes between Rich and Jason Turner, husbands of Mary and Stacie, from Bravo's enormously successful "Real Housewives" series, and who themselves were recently voted the two "Hottest Housewife Husbands" in DC. These two men aren't just eye-candy who are along for the ride, however. They jumped in feet first and are here to stay.



Entering the DC home of Jason and Stacie is like sitting in front of a warm, cozy fire. Reality often belies reality, but in the Turner home, the environment directly reflects the gracious personalities of the characters we see week after week. Then again, "character" often implies role-playing and these are two people who are clear proof that what you see is what you get.

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They are a team in everything they do. From raising their family, to raising awareness of Stacie’s charity, Extra-Ordinary Life, they do it together. As a result, they entered this as an adventure and were the last ones to sign on to the show, wanting to be absolutely certain that this was the right decision for the family. According to Jason, “we weren’t scared of messing up but making sure that once we made the commitment, we were in it 100% and we were together.” And as responsible parents they were aware “that we were not the kind of people who would ever do anything our kids would be ashamed of. As long as you are authentic to yourself, you reduce the potential for regrets. And once you put yourself into the public arena you are somewhat accountable.” His motto: “I said it, I own it.” So does he think of himself as a star? “Never; at the end of all of this, we want everyone to be able to look at us and still say, ‘that is just so Stacie and Jason.’”



There was a question in one episode about what constitutes a ‘true DC native’ but crossing the river to Rich and Mary Amons home in McLean, you see that DC roots run very deep no matter which side you are on. With 5 kids ages 12-24, life has a controlled chaos about it, but is sometimes so normal that they were surprised anyone would be so interested in them. Married for almost 25 years, they are an adorable couple who look like kids themselves, and banter back and forth very much like a couple who have an incredible familiarity with one another. As busy as they are, you can see that they still make life fun, and spend a great deal of time focused on their family and Mary’s charities, Labels for Love and the District Sample Sale. So was he ok with it? He was completely supportive from day one, as were the kids. Once the cameras were rolling, he also didn’t feel as if he held back in any way. “I can only play myself on TV. I’m not an actor, so what you see is what you

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get. Also, they can only hang you with what you say and what you do, so I've just made sure to be myself." As fun as it has been getting to know some of the other guys on the show, he does remind us that this show is a drama, thus they look for heavy helpings of it. As a result, the single biggest fear factor is the unknown and when it comes to editing, you are not in control of the final product.

According to Rich, it's like driving a car: you can control your own car but you can't control what the other person is doing. If they are driving 110 mph, out of control over a cliff and run you over in the process, you just can't stop them. That's Reality.



**KATHRYN SCOTT PALOMBI** is a DC area PR/Media Consultant and Publicist who began her career in broadcasting and communications. In 1994 she created KSP Media, a PR/Media Consulting Company and has continued to work with high profile companies and individuals within the DC area and around the country. She is a McLean resident

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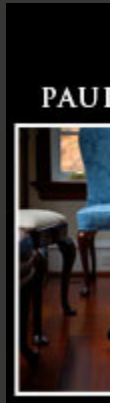
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