

The Road From CBU to MTV

For Blaine Williams, the path away from business has been quite a trip... BY AIMEE LEWIS ELLIOTTE ('92)

HIS BUSINESS DEGREE from CBU, with a concentration in marketing, didn't take Blaine Williams ('92), down the tried and true corporate road. It took him on the road to the stars instead.

"Oddly enough, after graduation I knew I didn't want to enter the corporate workforce," he said. That belief, and Williams' love of music, led him to work in a string of record stores, taking him from Memphis to London then back to his hometown of Little Rock.

"After all that, I worked for almost two years at a small advertising agency in Little Rock. It was there that I learned how to produce television commercials. It didn't take me long to make the decision to move to the Mecca of film and television production, Los Angeles."

Early on, Williams worked as an archive coordinator, set dresser, and production assistant, primarily for a company that produced television for A&E Television Networks and its subsidiary, the History Channel. His credits during this period include *Sink the Bismarck* and *The St. Valentine's Day Massacre*.

Eventually, he settled into post-production. "*Post-production* is a general term referring to all stages of the process of making films or TV occurring after the project has filmed, recorded, etc.," Williams explained. "So, as a post-production supervisor, I manage a staff of editors and other post-production employees involved in finishing a show. I schedule out a project from the point filming finishes all the way through its air date. Included with this I oversee the budget, help create the graphics, and supervise the audio mixing and video mastering of shows."

After a brief hiatus Williams' career took yet another turn. "I had become very burnt out on it all. I decided to take a six-month break to recharge my batteries. Afterwards, I joined the freelance world and started working on all kinds of stuff ranging from ABC specials to the *Real World* for MTV and pilots for VH1. As a 'freelancer' in the industry, I never really know exactly what series or show I will work on next, so it's always interesting to see what's coming up around the corner. To sum it up though, I started working with a group of great people that produces shows for MTV and have pretty much stayed with them since then."

Currently Williams is finishing a series for MTV called *Bam's Unholy Union*. He'll then move on to another season of *Making the Band*, the popular reality



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television series that looks to create the next big pop supergroup, and a new *Making the Band*-spinoff reality series for MTV called *Taquita & Kawi*, about two girls who didn't make the cut but became best friends and are now seeking their next showbiz shot together in Las Vegas.

"I'm also working with friends on developing various TV pilots and am continually drumming up ideas for a local cheese shop, ice cream parlor, and/or sandwich joint for my neighborhood."

Williams recently married Mia Pastore and welcomed her daughter, Lucca, into his life. "I'm finding out very quickly that 'free-time' is a valuable commodity that comes less and less as I get older. When I do get it though, I enjoy relaxing with my family at the house: cooking, gardening, and hanging out in the backyard. Outside of that, I like playing drums for my cruddy little garage band, going to flea markets, discovering good cookbooks and listening to old records on vinyl... the way they should be heard."

So could he wind up back in a record store or in his own series, *Making the Band*? With Williams, anything is possible. Stay tuned. ■