

# Mark Washington & Laura-Lynn Tyler Thompson

**T**HEY SAY THAT OPPOSITES ATTRACT. IN THE CASE OF TELEVISION CO-HOSTS **Laura-Lynn Tyler Thompson** and **Mark Washington**, however, opposites not only attract, but also make for entertaining TV. Hailing from vastly different backgrounds — Washington, a retired defensive back-turned-coach for the BC Lions, was born in Washington, D.C., and Tyler Thompson is a TV reporter originally from Uganda — the duo has come together to create and co-host *The Daily with Mark and Laura-Lynn*, a new national daily talk show based in Vancouver. Shooting on location in the city, both inside the studio and roaming the soggy streets, Tyler Thompson and Washington pair up to bring the people and issues affecting the city's citizens. TV Week correspondent **Amanda Ryan** caught up with the co-hosts to discuss the pros and cons of living in Vancouver (mostly pro!) and why they'd like their show to run deeper than your average talk show.

## How is *The Daily* different from other local talk shows?

**MW:** Lots of the time, talk shows take on the personality of the hosts. Laura-Lynn and I are very different people, we look at things differently, and I think that will shine through.

**LT:** We've kind of called it "Regis and Kelly with a twist of goodness." This will be different in that it's not just pure entertainment, but we really want to find out what makes somebody tick: what is their philosophy in life, what has hurt them, what has propelled them to greatness. We hope to be deeper.

## What initially appealed to you about doing *The Daily*?

**LT:** I think because we would get the opportunity to interview amazing people from Vancouver. The greatest thing about being an interviewer is the amazing people that you get to learn from every day. Plus, I want to have fun.

**MW:** Laura-Lynn and I have been friends for years, and people always said we were really funny together, so we picked it up and ran with it.

## What do you like most about Vancouver?

**MW:** Not only is it a natural setting, but it's the most beautiful city in the world. In Vancouver you get the best of all worlds.

**LT:** I bought a home that I paid quite a bit

for at the time, and I invested everything I had — and mortgaged to the hilt — so that I could have a view of the mountains from my back deck. What I love about Vancouver is the incredible scenery. I love the West Coast lifestyle. I love that I can get in my car and go to the beach for the day, and the next

day I can get in my car and go up the mountain and see the most gorgeous landscape.

## Who is your favourite Vancouverite?

**LT:** One of my favourite Vancouver people is **Jake Edwards**, Bro Jake from Rock 101. That guy can really push the line of what's proper, and yet has a soul that's very deep.

**MW:** I would love to meet **Rob Feenie**. I would love to have him on the show, maybe cook something up . . .

## Besides being Hollywood North, what else does Vancouver contribute to Canada's national image?

**LT:** Well, we've got the 2010 Winter Olympics coming. I don't understand why Vancouver is not profiled more as Canada's leading city. We want to be Vancouver's show, and we feel that Vancouver offers Canada's best face. Toronto is the heart, perhaps, but Vancouver is the face.

## Laura-Lynn, with your years of broadcasting experience, do you have any advice for others wishing to pursue the same career?

**LT:** If you want to be in broadcasting, you have to be prepared to really work hard.

It's not easy to be in front of the camera. It's very difficult to actually win the right to be in that place. By the time that you've ever been in front of the camera, you've logged hundreds and hundreds of hours doing menial, seemingly unimportant tasks in the industry.

## Mark, are there any similarities between coaching football and hosting a talk show?

**MW:** You can use a lot of the same skills. Being in one place and having your mind a few steps ahead when interviewing someone, [and] as a coach you need to be a few steps ahead of what the team's doing. Preparation really shows in a talk show, and in a team. ■

**THE DAILY WITH MARK AND LAURA-LYNN** airs weekdays at 6 a.m., 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. on CHNU.

