

# Mayhem in motherhood

Prominent parents share their experiences of raising children, writes **Marchelle Adams**

**W**HEN Cape Town mom Tracy Dawson was pregnant with her second child, she came across a treasure trove of mother-owned businesses and so came her light bulb moment to start her own blog documenting her experience of motherhood.

"I studied web design, had the skills and did not know what to do with them," said the 33-year-old mother to Liam, 8, and Cole, 1.

Her blog, [liamandcoletheblog.co.za](http://liamandcoletheblog.co.za), is a commentary on her life as a working mother and wife, but the website is also informative and offers funny anecdotes.

Being a mother is a full-time job that requires dedication and lots of hard work. But there is also a fun aspect: making memories, looking back on them and thinking: "Did I really do that?"

Here, Dawson lists her top seven crazy things she has done since becoming a mother:

- I never knew how much fun eating a chocolate in the bathroom behind a closed door could be until I became a mom.

- At 2pm on a weekday, in an attempt to feed my hungry baby, I went with him to the local shop and realised only at the till that I was barefoot with my PJs on.

- I never thought I would be so happy to smell baby poo after my son was constipated for four days.

- I often get onto the kitchen counter and sing Timothy Traddle's famous song in an attempt to diffuse a tantrum.

- I spell out words using phonics, even when speaking to adults. That's what doing homework everyday has done to me.

- I walked around the mall with snot all over the front of my tank top.

- I once drove to work with my baby's nappy bag instead of my work bag.

Most mothers can identify with Dawson's completely-out-of-character acts. So we asked a few



Tracy Dawson with sons Cole, 1, Liam, 8. She runs parenting blog [liamandcoletheblog.co.za](http://liamandcoletheblog.co.za). Pictures: Supplied

celebrity mothers about all the weird and wonderful things they'd done since becoming parents.

EAST COAST RADIO DJ JANE LINLEY-THOMAS

The mother of three said there was never a dull moment in her home.

"When we drive to school in the morning, everyone wears a pair of sunglasses and we listen to clean edits of gangster rap music.

"And every evening we do a guided meditation for children

that aids in motivation, love for self and others."

FASHION DESIGNER KAT VAN DUINEN

Motherhood changes you in quite dramatic ways, said the mother of two.

"I learnt to swim in order to be more present in my children's lives.

"I also went on a roller coaster with my kids, which is something I would have never even considered. I even learned to

cook as well."

CHEF SIBA MTONGANA

The celebrity chef from Food Network's popular local series *Siba's Table* runs her home like a well-oiled machine.

But on a recent holiday with her family, things got a little too real for Mtongana.

"It is very out of character for me to give my kids what they want. I am very strict at home under normal circumstances. So when my youngest boy dipped his



Designer Kat van Duinen's pride and joy are her two children.



DJ Jane Linley-Thomas has her hands full with three children.



Siba Mtongana's rib incident.

rib in his baby chino (non-caffeine drink for kids), I just let it go. I thought 'I am on holiday and I am not going to fight with anyone.'"

Mtongana made mention of the incident on Instagram, saying: "Motherhood!! I know I know... looks disgusting... my lil man barista just decided that baby chino tastes better flavoured with smoked ribs... he is quiet on our dinner table and I just pretended I didn't see this one... the foodie mother in me was boiling inside and tried to intervene but was buzzed off with immediate effect."

NADINE OOSTHUIZEN

MEET Imraan Christian, one of SA's most prominent influencers who uses the mediums of film, photography, visual art and muralism to expertly marry aesthetics with ideals.

We sat down with him to talk about the future of Cape Town: our youth.

For Christian the youth are the architects of Cape Town's future; however with this realisation comes the painful process of unlearning in order to re-learn and innovate and that's where Christian finds his purpose.

"The streets of Cape Town taught me to fight from a young age; as I grew older my way of fighting has transformed into greater ideas of resistance and community building. If Cape Town is the Mother then I consider myself a son of the soil and the mediums of art and self

## Imraan, a rebel with a cause



Imraan Christian  
Picture: Haneem Christian

expression are key to the healing process that is so important to moving forward."

**What is your idea of South Africa's underground?**

The youth is SA's underground. Like seeds, we are gathering nutrients and information, scheming about the moment we

burst into the sunlight.

**Art as resistance, what does this concept mean to you?**

There's a lot of fire in SA and the world. And historically only certain channels of expression have been seen as resistance, such as protest, mass mobilisation, boycotts. There's still a need for these, however our world is evolving rapidly and either we are going to be on the forefront of that change and lead it or get left behind.

**Following your documentary on the 2016 student uprisings, which was a global phenomenon, what have been some of the most hard-hitting realities you've come to understand during this time?**

Mental health among young people really needs more support

and visibility in our country right now. In most places, we are two years on from when the protests began and now we are starting to understand the trauma of what has happened and continues to happen.

**Would you describe yourself as an activist?**

First and foremost, I am an artist and storyteller. Much of my work does fall in the realm of activism, but the channel is art.

**What is your understanding of being South African?**

I don't understand all South Africans; we are a melting pot of all kinds. In order to understand the previous generations socio-politically you would need radical and far-left tools that I no longer keep at the

front of my mind.

**You've made documentaries about some of SA's skate communities, do you skate yourself?**

20sk8 have been my family for the last few years now, I skate but not like they do.

**Besides being an artist, what are some of your key interests on a day-to-day basis?**

I love all kind of music, music is life. On what makes me happy – the ocean, without it I'm nothing.

**What is the most important thing to you in life?**

Family. Not just blood family but family in the greater sense: community.

● Christian was featured as one of the Top 50 African influencers on CSA's *On the Radar Vol.2*. For the full report on African's next-generation influencers, visit [CSA.global/thewire](http://CSA.global/thewire).