



## People in the city

# Lisa leaps into new show

MONIQUE DUVAL

City Bowl producer Lisa Chait is about to take a leap of faith and begin a new TV show that will tell women's stories, the stories that deal with the moment when they take a decision, not knowing what the outcome will be.

"Don't you just love red cappuccinos," Lisa asks, as she settles in to tell the CapeTowner about her new television show called *Leap of Faith*.

Lisa grew up in Highlands Estate and after matriculating from Herzlia High School, she went to Israel to complete a post-university course. On her return, she completed a teacher's diploma and went back to Herzlia to teach there.

"It was an interesting experience and I was very young. Somebody gave me the best advice that helped me through it I was told not to smile before April.

"I had to be firm and stern to gain the children's respect and it worked," she said.

For Lisa, getting into people's lives and hearing their stories was always high on her priority list, so after teaching she moved to Johannesburg to become a news journalist.

"I enjoyed radio, so I later moved back to Cape Town and became a newsreader for Good Hope FM. While at the station, I did a bit of producing and eventually got my own show on weekends," she said.

She later went to work for CapeTalk, but after the station's line-up changed, Lisa left and started producing documentaries, including *Women Won't Wait*.

After many years, Lisa founded a very special project called *Life Stories*.

"It's a very interesting idea. Basically, people who are interested in telling their stories to their families call us.

"Then we film grannies, grandpas, uncles and aunties. We have them look into the camera and tell us their life stories.

"In some instances, we have children or other family members interviewing them. We also go to places where some of their fondest memories have been made, and have them speak about them.

"After filming, we do all the editing then compile a DVD of chapters for the family to view. It's a great idea because many of us wish we could have filmed the stories of our parents for our children and this brings family ties and family history to life," she said.

And while she has had much success with *Life Stories*, Lisa has now embarked on a new challenge.

With a keen interest in the lives of South African women, Lisa submitted a proposal to the SABC for a new show called *Leap of Faith*.



■ Lisa Chait

The project was given the green light and the first episodes are due to air in March. Lisa said the 26 episodes, which are 24 minutes long, will be shown weekly on SABC 3.

The mini documentaries feature 26 women who have shifted their lives though a *Leap Of Faith*.

Lisa says the show is not a religious programme, instead is an exploration of the human spirit and what women have done to embrace the reality they have found themselves in.

"We all, at some point, take a *Leap Of Faith*, whether its changing your life, doing something you always dreamed of, or getting out of a tight spot. We all have that moment when we make a decision to do something, not knowing what the result is going to be.

"This series of documentaries is about exploring the courage of South African women," she said.

Through this series, Lisa hopes to empower women. While there were some heart wrenching moments, she said, it wasn't all doom and gloom. Now Lisa is looking for more stories to continue the series.

● If you have a powerful story or would like to nominate someone call Lisa on 072 377 6211 or email her on [lisachait@gmail.com](mailto:lisachait@gmail.com)