

How not to let stardom get in your way

By Jeana Diacono Special to the Acorn



Aaron Lewis

Aaron Lewis was sitting in front of his computer screen when the envelope was opened. The daytime reality show he had molded into a compelling storyline, "Starting Over," won its second Emmy for editing.

"I watched the webcast, and when we won I started jumping up and down," said the Camarillo resident. "It was a shock and an honor."

Lewis doesn't exactly buy into all of the Hollywood glitz and glamour; he opted not to purchase a ticket to his second Emmy Awards ceremony earlier this month.

Instead, the 29-year-old watched the 34th annual Daytime Emmy Awards ceremony via the Internet.

His mom, Diane Lewis, said she was absolutely floored when Aaron won.

"I am very proud of my son," Diane Lewis said.

Lewis said "Starting Over," a reality show which follows six women as they overcome real-life issues, owes its success to providing a positive message.

"Most of reality TV is kind of exploited; people compete for a prize," Lewis said. "The show was to help people change their lives in a significant way. We wanted them to do good, so we invested a lot of time."

And the Emmy award-winning editor knows exactly how to face real-life issues. The road to success began in 2002 after Lewis graduated from Cal State University Northridge.

He sent out 700 resumes, in search of a job in the highly competitive entertainment industry. He only received three returned calls.

Undaunted, Lewis started as a videotape logger and watched tapes while jotting down the details of what happened. He eventually worked his way up to assistant editor and then editor.

"The trick is work hard and don't complain," Lewis said. "If you're hungry to go to the next level, you'll get promoted."

Although he's now a twotime Emmy winner, those who know him say that Lewis is just a regular guy.

"He's such not a bragger," Diane Lewis said. "He has been so gracious throughout his life, and he is never snobbish. He works so hard, and the hours are phenomenal."

"I was ecstatic when Aaron won," said Lewis' friend, John Caligiuri. "We work at the same place, and Aaron gave me a heads up on my first job there. "Starting Over" was a pretty intense project for him, and he put a lot into it."

But job security in Hollywood remains tough, even for an Emmy winner. "Starting Over" was canceled earlier this year, forcing Lewis to begin job searching anew with his usual tenacity.

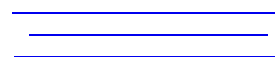
"My last job ended on Friday," Lewis said. "I won an Emmy, and I was unemployed the next day."

Lewis remains optimistic as most of his work comes from word-of-mouth- and now he's waiting to hear back from another show about a new job.

He also works as a freelance writer, but in the long run he wants to write and produce his own television show.

"Being a freelance writer, as with any creative field, you don't know what is going to happen," Lewis said. "What's right for one job may not be right for the next gig."

Lewis said that freelance is always going to be patchy, but luckily for him he's had a good run so far. And if his past success is any indication, it looks as if Lewis has a



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<http://www.thecamarilloacorn.com/news/2007/0629/...>

bright future.

"Not only is he really talented, he's just a nice guy," Caligiuri said. "When Aaron first won, I thought to myself it's great when good things happen to good people."