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“Blair” from *One Life To Live* is actually a true-Bluegrass Kentucky girl.



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Tom Williams



# Kassie DePaiva

The old Southern saying, "She's as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside," certainly holds true of Kentuckian Kassie DePaiva.

by Laura Doty

**D**ePaiva, who perhaps is best known as "Blair" from *One Life to Live*, is anything but the character she plays on TV. "Blair" is a woman who is always scheming, conniving and untrustworthy.

"It's much more interesting as an actress to play those colors, than it is to be the sweet girl all the time," DePaiva says. "I enjoy the heightened drama. [In real life], I try to be a good mom, just like 'Blair' does. I try to be a good wife, just like Blair does."

That's about where the similarities end, though, DePaiva admits. According to DePaiva, she tries to stay very low key.

"I don't like drama, As long as they pay me to be dramatic, that's fine, but in real life, I like harmony," DePaiva confesses.

She certainly has found it. With a successful job of 14 years, a husband (former co-star James DePaiva), and a 10-year-old

New York.

DePaiva's son, Jake Hugh, was born with profound hearing loss. According to DePaiva, he received all of his services at League of the Hard of Hearing. Because of this, DePaiva sends 100 percent of her profits from the crocheted hats to the League of the Hard of Hearing for their child development program to help other families.

"In the last two years, I've probably made 500 hats," DePaiva says.

Because of her ability to crochet hats, she is now the host of a PBS show called *Knit and Crochet Today*, which will start to air in September. DePaiva reveals that it's a half-hour show about how to learn to knit and crochet. Special guests and experts will come in to teach her how to increase her skills. DePaiva acknowledges that she is no expert.

Another new project for DePaiva is her third CD coming out on May 22. Described as a mixture of Allison Krauss and bluegrass, it takes DePaiva back to her Kentucky roots.


"I'm really proud of this project because it hits home in so many ways," she says.

While Kentucky is known for its bluegrass, it is most known for the Kentucky Derby. The Derby, held in Louisville, is always the first Saturday in May. DePaiva came clean, though, and admits that she has never been

to the Derby before.

"I've had a couple of big Kentucky Derby parties. I've celebrated in Los Angeles and here in New York," DePaiva says. "I would love to actually be a part of it."

Even though she's incredibly busy with several projects, DePaiva admitted to loving doing them all.

"The things I'm doing are the things I really want to be doing. I like giving back and doing charity work. But right now, everything seems to be going fine and I can do it because I have a really great husband and a great son who are really understanding. I try to give them the best of me." 

"I don't like drama, As long as they pay me to be dramatic, that's fine, but in real life, I like harmony,"

son, Jake Hugh, DePaiva counts her blessings every day.

DePaiva, 46, grew up in Morganfield, Ky., and keeps up with her Kentucky roots as much as she can. Even when she's in the New York, she still has Bluegrass State ties.

"We have a *Kentuckians of New York* that meets up here in Manhattan. It's kind of like being on a football team or something. People will say, 'Oh, yeah, I'm from Kentucky.' And I'll say, 'Oh, you too?'" DePaiva says.

Her Manhattan ties are strong, too. DePaiva started a company, Kassie's Happy Hats, that she sells on her Web site. All proceeds go to the League for the Hard of Hearing, based in