



PHOTOS: CRAIG MATHEW, MATHEW H.

**FACE-OFF:** Kimberly Jones (as Nicole Kidman), Teresa Barnwell (Hillary Clinton), Sharon Holmes (Martha Stewart), Dee Dee Hanson (Joan Rivers), Renee Wioozens (Jennifer Aniston)

# HEY, WHO'S THAT ON 'FEUD'?

Celebrity look-alikes from Orange County are among the faux stars appearing on the game show.

BY PETER LARSEN  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Joan Rivers lives in Orange, Martha Stewart nearby in Anaheim Hills, and Hillary Clinton down in Costa Mesa.

So when the producers of "Family Feud" invited the trio to Hollywood to compete on the game show on a team with Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Aniston, well, the commute wasn't bad at all.

Sounds too good - or bizarre - to be true, and so it is. Because our stars, you see, are celebrity impersonators who make their livings as look-alikes.

"It's so funny what we do," says Dee Dee Hanson of Orange, who's worked as a Joan Rivers impersonator since the early 1990s. "And if you told me I'd be making a living at this, I'd have said, 'Oh, right.'"

"But there are so many people who never get to meet these people, and so you hear, 'Oh, it's my dream to meet Joan Rivers on the red carpet!'" Hanson says. "They get really excited."

All this week, Hanson, Sharon Holmes (who plays Martha) and Teresa Barnwell (who plays Hillary) are appearing on "Family Feud" against a team of male celebrity look-alikes that includes Gregg Chelew of Orange County as David Letterman.

For the trio of women - Chelew could not be reached for this article - it was practically old home week.

"I did know quite a few of the other impersonators, because you do work together sometimes," said Barnwell, who lives in Costa Mesa. "It's a world of its own, almost like a little fraternity."

The three women found their way to careers as celebrity impersonators by different paths.

For Hanson, it was after working at stand-up comedy for a spell. One day an agent asked if she'd consider impersonating Rivers for an event in Anaheim.

"So I went out and bought the hair, and learned a few phrases - 'Can we talk? Can we talk?' - and people thought I was Joan, and I thought, 'I've found my thing.'"



**MEET THE MEN:** Celebrity impersonators on "Family Feud" include, from left, Malcolm X. Hughes as Denzel Washington, David Borne as Robin Williams, O.C. resident Gregg Chelew as David Letterman, Pavel Sfera as Bono and Garry Moore as Little Richard.

Hanson says.

She's done the act full-time since 1992, appearing from time to time with Rivers herself, but mostly doing corporate events and parties. Last year, she says

she did somewhere between 100 and 120 events as Rivers.

For Barnwell, it was more her physical resemblance to Clinton that pulled her into the gig, almost reluctantly at first, she says.

## 'Family Feud'

When: 6 p.m. weekdays  
Where: KCAL-TV/9

"I was visiting some girlfriends one night, and telling them how everywhere I went, people were commenting about the resemblance, and how it was fun at first, but then it got to where I couldn't go anywhere without people coming up to me," she said of her start back around the time Bill Clinton ran for president in 1992.

"And my girlfriend said, you should make something out of this, and be one of those look-alike people," Barnwell says. "I said, 'That's the craziest thing I've ever heard,' but long story short, I got some photos, met some of the look-alikes, and sure enough, the phone started to ring."

For Holmes, it was simply looking for a recipe for chocolate on Martha Stewart's Web site that led her to stumble onto a