

Family Comes First for Keyshia Cole & Daniel Gibson

By Erica Thompson

Keyshia Cole and her husband of nearly a year and a half, NBA player Daniel “Boobie” Gibson, are maintaining their careers and raising their 2-year-old son, DJ, while nurturing a marriage built on faith in God, trust in each other and dedication to their family.

And while Keyshia is no stranger to reality TV, the R&B singer’s new show, “Family First” (which premieres October 9 at 10 p.m. ET on BET), will present her in the two roles you haven’t yet seen up close: Keyshia as a wife and mother.

Daniel, who plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers, didn’t know Keyshia personally back in 2008 when he confessed that he had a crush on her. “I’m single,” he told the “Good Morning Cleveland” TV news program, “but the only way I won’t be single is if Keyshia Cole calls me today.”

It wasn’t long before Daniel’s wish came true: He and Keyshia were introduced by a mutual wardrobe stylist, and the pair spent months talking on the phone before meeting in person. “We did the high school thing—we talked on the phone until morning. We really got to know each other well,” he told *Ebony*. “She has morals and a big heart. Once we met, things happened fast. I felt like she was perfect for me.”

Keyshia felt the same way. In a June 2009 interview with *S2S*, the songstress revealed that she was eager to settle down. “Listen, you don’t even understand: I have a whole future set up for myself. I want to be married. I want to have a child,” she said. Daniel proposed several months later, on New Year’s Eve, and their son, Daniel Hiram Gibson, Jr., arrived that March. The couple married privately in Las

These two are tight like glue. Daniel Gibson and Keyshia Cole star in “Keyshia & Daniel: Family First,” premiering October 9 at 10 p.m. ET on BET.

Vegas in May 2011.

Keyshia and Daniel’s emotional second wedding is captured in “Family First.” The couple flew their families to a beautiful location in Kauai, Hawaii, for the ceremony last September.

“My husband wanted me to have my DREAM WEDDING,” Keyshia wrote on Twitter at the time. “He’s giving something I will NEVER forget! Amazing!”

But what was it about Daniel, whom Keyshia calls “Gib,” that made him “the one”? She told *S2S* while they were dating that he would send her passages from the Bible. In addition to spirituality, the couple cites trust as a pillar of their relationship. “Honesty is important. People go through things when the other feels differently but doesn’t say any-



We are family: (l to r) Keyshia’s mom Frankie, Daniel and Keyshia with son DJ

Photo via @KeyshiaCole

Photo by Picture Group/BET



Keyshia and her foster mom, Yvonne Cole

Photo by Marvin Joseph/S2S

thing. It’s important to be in the same place. I needed someone I could trust. He felt the same way,” Keyshia told *Ebony*.

They also count on each other for support when it comes to their demanding jobs. “Gib rolls with me when I’m performing, just like I roll with him when he’s playing. We love to see each other perform,” Keyshia told Philadelphia’s *Hot 107.9*.

“Family First” viewers will see the making of Keyshia’s fifth studio album, *Woman to Woman*, also due in October. They’ll watch Daniel battle a serious, possibly career-ending injury. The show also includes the couple’s families, including Keyshia’s biological mother, Frankie Lons, and her foster mother, Yvonne Cole.

“Gib’s family is a lot different than mine,” Keyshia said during taping for “Family First.” “They hang out and they play cards, and they’re loving to one another, and they’re very mild-mannered.” Viewers of Keyshia’s first reality show, “The Way It Is,” know that while the star’s bond with Yvonne is strong, her relationship with Frankie, who struggled with drug and alcohol abuse for most of Keyshia’s life, has been rocky. Keyshia has both financially supported and cut off Frankie over the years, depending on Frankie’s behavior. But in spite of it all, she loves both of her mothers—as well as several biological siblings she hasn’t had a relationship with since childhood.

“Keyshia has such a big heart that she wants everybody to come together,” Yvonne told *S2S* back in 2009. At that point Keyshia was in regular communication with her biological sisters Neffe and Elite, as well as a brother, Sam, and she was also trying to locate Frankie’s other three children. “They’ve been adopted—just like me—their entire life,” Keyshia said. “I’m going to find them.”

Frankie seems to be in a better place on the new show, and she isn’t afraid to publicly admit her failings.

“These two (Keyshia and Daniel), they’re gonna need our support,” Frankie said to Yvonne and Daniel’s family while filming. “When they come to us for our advice—I’ll probably be the last one they come to ‘cause you know my advice didn’t get me nowhere but locked up, but I’m through with that.”

Though their families differ, Keyshia and Daniel’s views on family are in sync. “I had never met a woman who had the same thoughts and feelings about family, and I think at that moment, I fell in love with her,” Daniel said. “That’s a special woman there.” **S**