

FALISA RAY

WITH WENDELL RAY

MEDIA KIT

RAISING SIMBA

A Mother-Son Journey of Faith from the
Chicago Projects to the Broadway Stage



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A Mother-Son Journey of Faith from the Chicago Projects to the Broadway Stage

For Falisa Ray and her son, Aaron, going from the dim corners of the South Side of Chicago to the bright lights of Broadway wasn't so much about the fame, but the pursuit of a divinely orchestrated purpose. From dealing with sexual assault as a teen and enduring toxic family relationships, to escaping spousal abuse and facing devastating failure and evictions, Ray shares her powerful story of resilience and beating the odds. A woman with bold dreams and an indomitable spirit, she shows what it takes to make it and see God's promises fulfilled. No matter the challenges and disappointments, she found strength in her faith. Ray's intimate relationship with God combined with a gift of prophetic dreams guided her along the way. At every step, the right people and opportunities

reassured her that she and her son were on the right path.

Not only did this determined mother use prayer and hard work to design a better life, she also instilled these principles in her son to help him land the acclaimed role of Simba in Disney's *The Lion King*—the third longest-running show on Broadway. In *Raising Simba*, she offers practical advice on nurturing artistic gifts and navigating the wildly unpredictable entertainment industry without sacrificing your integrity. Ray recounts how she invited God to order her steps and built the confidence to fight for her and her son's dreams. In this powerful memoir, you will enjoy heartfelt stories that spotlight the power of unforgettable “God moments,” unshakable faith, and undeniable creative gifts.

BOOK DETAILS

TITLE: *Raising Simba: A Mother-Son Journey of Faith from the Chicago Projects to the Broadway Stage*

AUTHOR: Falisa Ray with Wendell Ray

GENRE(S): Nonfiction, Memoir, Inspirational, Parenting, Religion & Spirituality, Self Help, Personal Development

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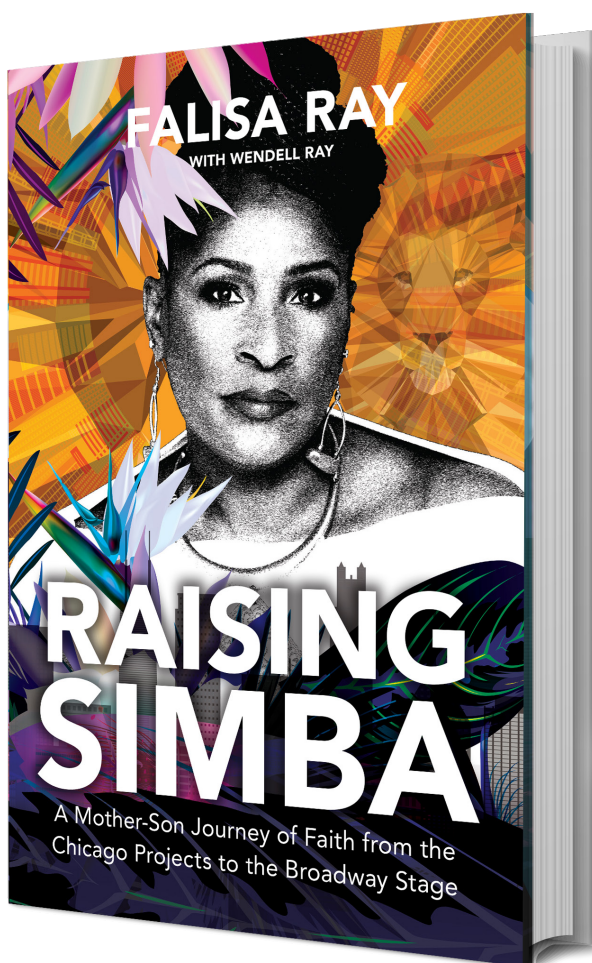
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PRAISE FOR RAISING SIMBA

“It is every parent’s dream to have their child display remarkable gifts and talents, but with those gifts comes great responsibility. *Raising Simba* describes Falisa’s amazing journey... A must read!”

—JAMES RIORDAN, *New York Times* Best-Selling Author

FIVE-STAR REVIEWS



A True, Inspirational Story that You Can’t Put Down

Raising Simba is a gripping and inspiring story of a mother and son, striving and succeeding through faith, hard work, and creativity. Falisa Ray keeps it real; you feel her pain and share her joy. A must-read for those who care about the arts, racial equity and justice, and living their faith.

— Susanna A. McColley

A Beautiful Guide to Raising Black Boys

A captivating and inspiring read from start to finish! As a single dad myself, this book will actually help provide me with pointers on how to raise my own toddler. I can’t wait for this book to be made into a movie.

— Eddie

A Story of Faith, Love, Perseverance and Joy

I was hooked at the first page... The strength and fortitude Falisa has is inspiring and encouraging and gives one faith that with God all things are possible. You will laugh, cry and celebrate with Falisa and her Simba to the very last word. (Don’t be surprised if you find yourself re-reading it). I recommend (and have purchased) this book as a gift for my daughters.

— Kindle Customer

***Raising Simba* is SO GOOD!**

Raising Simba is SO GOOD! Inspiring! Faith-filled! SPOILER ALERT: *Raising Simba* is the only gift I will purchase this holiday season. EVERYONE on my holiday gift list will receive a copy of *Raising Simba* — from my teenage granddaughter, to my elder[ly] neighbor, to family, friends and coworkers!

— Glenda Spearman





Falisa Ray's light is undeniable. Creative, bold, and resilient, she is on a mission to make artistic career paths more attractive and accessible in the African American community.

As the founder and CEO of LisaLisa, LLC, she is a fierce advocate for arts education and passionate about bringing access to this essential learning experience back into schools. As a go-to resource, Ray connects talented, diverse young performers with pivotal opportunities.

Ray's upcoming book, *Raising Simba*, is slated for release in November 2022. The book highlights her journey from the Chicago projects to guiding her son Aaron to Broadway, where he landed the lead role as Simba in Disney's *The Lion King*. In it she shares tips on developing the right mindset, commitment, and skills for a successful career in arts and entertainment.

She blends her experience and expertise to empower other parents seeking to help their children realize their artistic dreams. Throughout her personal and professional life, she has always emphasized the power of prayer and purpose-driven decisions to make the impossible possible. For her, the key to overcoming adversity, rejection, and disappointment lies in her faith in God.

Her passion for the creative world began at an early age when she fell in love with dancing, music, and fashion. She learned to cut and sew patterns at age eight and later began designing clothes, specializing in evening gowns. Her unique style and keen eye attracted the attention of others who requested she create custom designs for them. In 2010, Ray established her fashion studio, Lisa Ray Fashions, and has designed clothes for a variety of clients, including



Grammy Award-winning musician Kirk Whalum.

In addition to her creative endeavors and entrepreneurial pursuits, Ray continues to work as a respiratory therapist. Even in this role, she motivates patients to pursue their artistic dreams. For example, she inspired and helped a woman once named the world's tiniest sibling by Guinness World Records to design beautiful clothing to fit herself. In 2022, the FACES Foundation presented her with a PHIL Award for outstanding care and treatment for patients with respiratory illnesses. Falisa has been featured on WGN-TV Channel 9 Chicago, *Citizen Newspaper*, V103 Chicago and the *Columbia Chronicle*.

Originally from Chicago, Ill., Ray currently lives with her husband Wendell in Wisconsin.

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