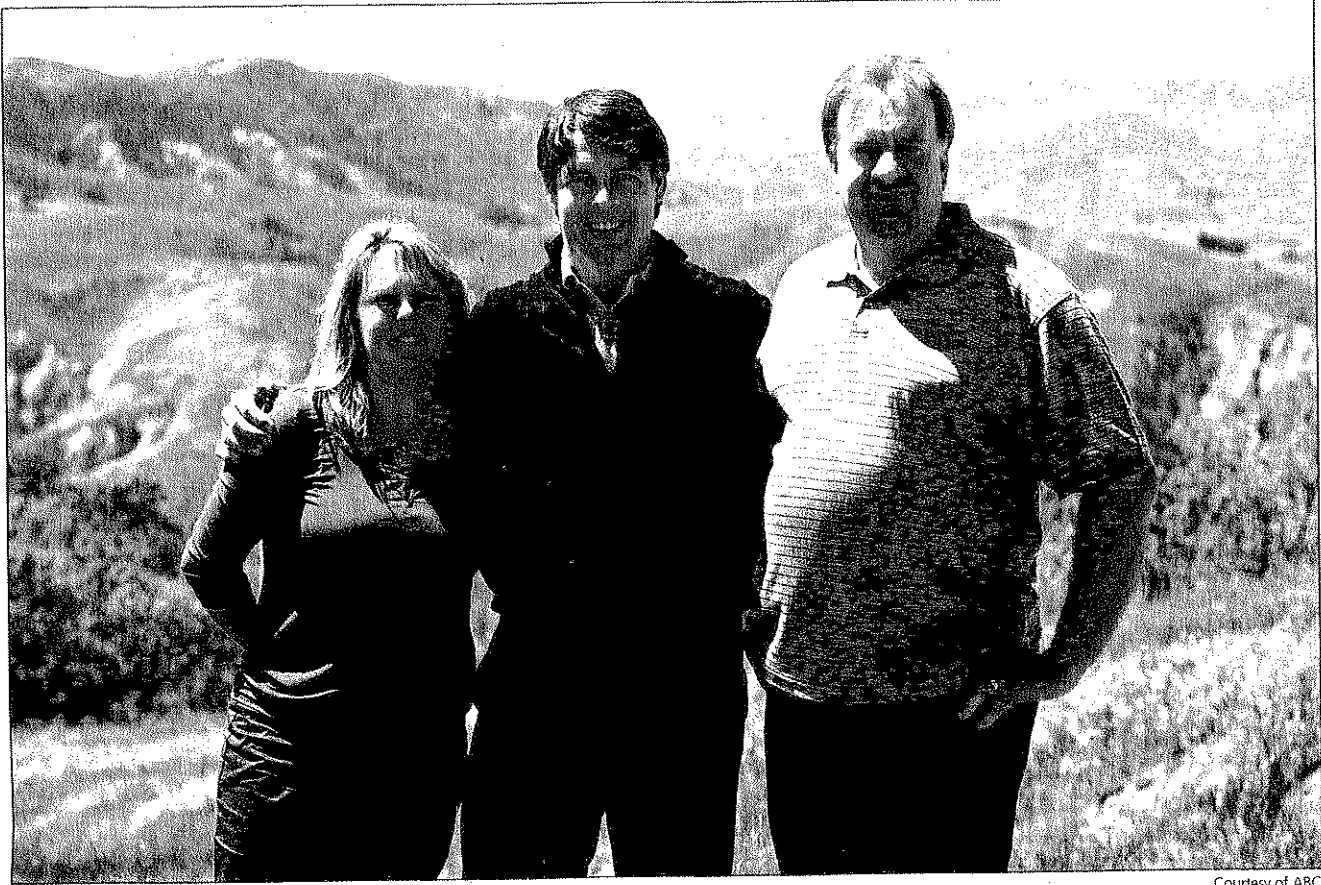


# A Show with a Mission

CNY's Tim Green hosts a new TV show that helps families find lost loved ones



Courtesy of ABC

**TIM GREEN** (center), a former Syracuse University and NFL football player, helps host a new ABC-TV show, "Find My Family," a reality series that helps people who have been searching for family they've not been able to find. He's shown with the couple in the series pilot, Scott and Sandy Steinpas, of Wisconsin, who are searching for the daughter they gave up when they were teenagers.

By Mark Bialczak  
Staff writer

**T**im Green knew at once that he liked the latest TV project pitched by his agent.

It was a reality show, "Find My Family," the American version of an Australian hit of the same name.

"Basically, the show helps people who have been searching for family that they've not been able to find," Green says. "Most of the people have been separated because of adoption. And we find them."

Everything seemed to fit.

The former Syracuse University All-American and National Football League defensive lineman worked in TV after his playing career ended in 1993, commentating on NFL games for Fox and then hosting the syndicated show "A Current Affair."

Of a more personal nature, he had been adopted by the Green family of Liverpool. And Green, also a novelist as well as a practicing attorney, had written a memoir, "A Man and His Mother: An Adopted Son's Search" about a decade ago.

Green happily — and thoughtfully — answered questions about "Find My Family" last week, over the telephone from his law office in Syracuse.

#### Why did you agree to work with the show?

I was interested because it was a pilot for ABC, so I knew it was going to be pretty well-produced. Also, I knew that if it became a show, I wouldn't have to move (from Central New York). Which has always been for me a prerequisite for the work I've done in television. The opportunity fit my life.

#### Did you enjoy the experience?

I thought that it was going to be gratifying, but I had no idea how wonderful the experience was going to be.

#### What exactly is your role?

I work with Lisa Joyner. ... I do all the wrap-arounds and the storytelling (with the people doing the searching). Lisa, she does what I do, but with the targets.

I show up at somebody's door and say, we found your daughter. What Lisa does, she sits down with the daughter and says, what are you thinking, how do you feel?

#### Do you only do interviews or do you roll up your sleeves and try to help in the search?

(The search) is all behind the scenes. A couple of dozen (staffers) worked for months. I know they spent a lot of resources to find

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Courtesy of ABC

**LISA JOYNER** co-hosts "Find My Family" with Tim Green. She and Green can relate to many of the separated families' situations because they are both adopted.

#### The details

**What:** "Find My Family," a reality show hosted by Central New Yorker Tim Green.

**Debut:** The half-hour pilot airs at 9:30 p.m. today on WSYR-TV (Channel 9).

**Regular time slot:** The 60-minute show will run 9 to 10 p.m. Mondays, beginning Nov. 30.

**Storyline:** Each episode tells two tales of somebody who's desperate to find a long-lost relative.

**Green's role:** The former Syracuse University and NFL football player, fiction novelist and attorney gets to knock on the door to tell the seekers that the relative has been found.

# Green brings personal experience to show

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people. These are people that essentially can't be found in any normal way.

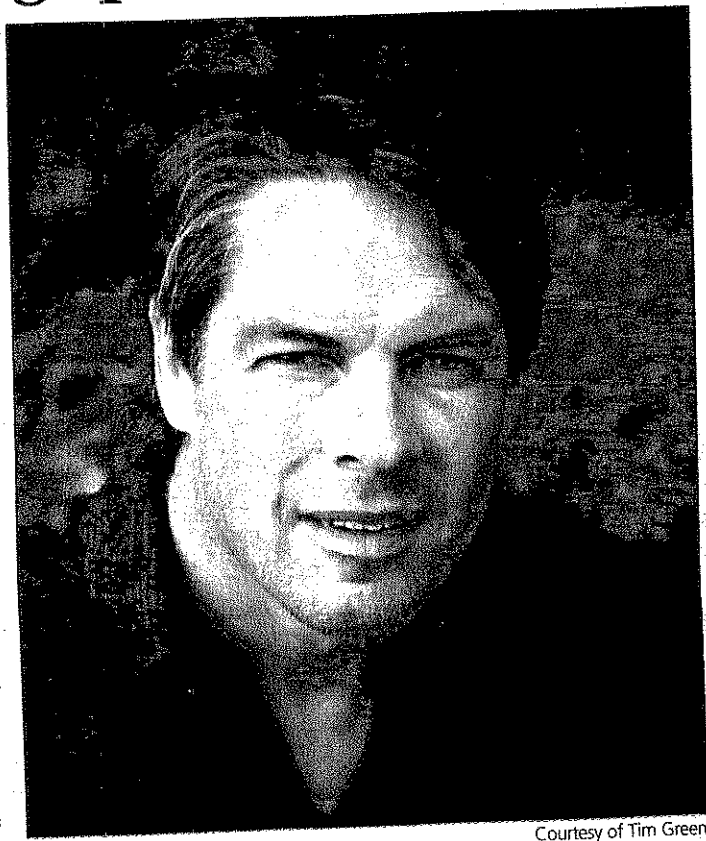
**Can you tell me if they're all successful?**

Sometimes they can't find a match. They're also very careful before they disrupt anybody's life, to make sure that both parties are independently OK with it. The show isn't about disrupting people's lives and doing damage to people. It's about having people (who) live in two different worlds who want to be united.

**Do you tell the viewers on air that you were adopted?**

I have, I think, about one line where I think I say that a lot of people working on the show were adopted. Lisa also was adopted. I was adopted and found my biological mother. Then I said, in doing that, that can never replace my parents. Nothing can replace who your parents are.

That's a pretty strong theme throughout the show. We haven't had anybody on the show who says, these people aren't my parents, I need to find my parents. Many of the people who are the sons and daughters, their parents are actually helping them with the search. Which is really quite nice. They understand that the parent is the parent and nothing replaces that. But they've come to the understanding with their kid that it's a ques-



Courtesy of Tim Green

**TIM GREEN** says he's never been involved with a show that changes people's lives as much as "Find My Family."

tion that needs to be answered.

**Do you have a favorite family from the show?**

It's funny, because every time I meet someone, every time I deliver the news to one person, I walk out of there thinking that's the best story. Then I go to the next one and

say that's the best story. I keep thinking that it can't keep being as good as they are for me. But each one is. Each one is different. That was the surprising thing for me. ...

The Steinpas family, in the pilot, they were teenagers and gave up the baby. Back then

they never imagined they would stay together. Then they stayed together. And they looked for (their daughter) for over a decade.

**There have been six episodes made so far. Do you think the show has a chance to being signed on for more? Maybe because America can use a feel-good show at this point?**

I'm the last person to predict success of a TV show. So I really don't know. I do know that what you said is very accurate. People will see the show and they'll feel uplifted. It's very emotional, and it's uplifting.

**How do you rate the show compared to your other TV experiences?**

It's a 10. I've never done anything like it. Some of the things I've done have been exciting and fun. But I never did anything that involves changing somebody's life, like this does.

**Can I ask you about your family?**

Sure. My wife (Illyssa) and I have five children, ages 19 to 3. They're all ours. When we decided we wanted our last one, we discussed that if we had difficulty, we'd consider adoption.

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