

KATHY SLEDGE BRINGS THE SPIRIT OF "WE ARE FAMILY" TO NEW TALK SHOW SERIES, "FAMILY ROOM"

Iconic GRAMMY-nominated artist Kathy Sledge — the voice behind "We Are Family" and Club Quarantine's theme song "Thinking of You" — teams with fashion forward daughter Kristen Gabrielle for surprise and spontaneity in their new interactive series, Familyroom.

Everyone knows Kathy Sledge as the voice behind the worldwide anthem "We Are Family." Her timeless vocals on "Thinking of You" was coined DJ DNice's official theme to "Club Quarantine." Both songs are the spirit of *FamilyRoom*, a new series produced by Kathy and her daughter Kristen Gabrielle. *"As Club Quarantine became the place where people dance and meet up,"* says Kathy. *"Family Room is where the conversation happens, celebrating love and each other."* Twice a week, Wednesday (8:00 pm EST) and Saturday (12:30 pm EST), viewers from around the world visit Kathy and Kristen at home on IG Live for intimate conversation and personal connection. Since it's launching in spring 2020, *Familyroom* has become a place of solace and support, powered by the unique, "ride or die" bond between a mother and daughter that defines what family is really all about.

Remarkably, Kathy and Kristen have created a gathering place for thousands of "family members" during the midst of the global pandemic. *"We were actually just beginning to talk to networks. We were getting great traction for the idea of FamilyRoom as a mother-daughter talk show when the quarantine began,"* says Kathy. *"Kristen came up with the idea, 'Why don't we just start right within these four walls?' We have created our own neighborhood and international community,"* Kristen adds. Early on in the Pandemic, *Familyroom* became a global interactive chat room. *"We bring people in on the chat and what's most exciting is that we have so many different guests from so many different backgrounds and corners of the world. We really are enjoying building a whole "FamilyRoom" community!"*

Questlove, Sheila E, Sinbad, and DNice are among the many celebrity guests who've joined the conversation in the show's segment "Knocking at the Door" where Kathy and Kristen surprise the viewers with a secret celebrity guest. This brings such spontaneity and surprise to the *Familyroom* experience.

The global reach of *Familyroom* reflects Kathy's success as an international recording icon. *"Right before the quarantine, I produced and headlined several sold out International festivals, then the tour was interrupted when the pandemic hit"* she says. *"We Are Family has reached every corner of the world with such a strong international following. Familyroom is resurfacing the worldwide brand"*

"When Kristen and I started the series, the whole idea was for people to bring their favorite drink and meet up in the FamilyRoom, to sit around, talk and have fun. In the beginning, I'd have a cup of coffee for the folks in LA because it's 9:30 am there and Kristen would have a glass of wine for the folks here on the east coast. Then we started seeing cocktail glasses pop up and noticed it would be happy hour in England, Australia and other parts of the world. Kristen and I

then realized just how global our following is. It's exciting! We've even had guests from as far as South Africa and Dubai"

Premiering *FamilyRoom* during such a time as the quarantine, turned out to be serendipitous. DJ DNice had also started "Club Quarantine" and began featuring "Thinking of You," a song that Nile Rodgers and Bernard Edwards wrote and produced for Kathy and her sisters when she was sixteen. In fact, DNice spoke to PBS about what the record means to him. Saying *"it's the song that has kept me motivated during this crisis. There is something about the very first time that I played that record. I was feeling a bit down, and I played it. And Nile's guitar playing on that song, it just moved me, and then I started listening to Kathy Sledge sing. It's still resonating, and it still feels good."* DNice has since played the song every set, and coined it as Club Quarantine's Theme song making Kathy Sledge the "Queen of Club Quarantine" and the voice that's greeted luminaries like Rihanna, Michelle Obama, Drake, and Oprah Winfrey when they visit the Club.

As viewers continue to show solidarity with Black Lives Matter or support each other through the challenges of bringing the world back together from COVID-19, *FamilyRoom* has also become a place for healing. Each show begins with a segment called "Prayer Hands". We tell people around the world to just put a prayer in for everything going on in the world whether it be personal or global.. *"Real attracts real. It's organic."*, Kathy says. *"Everybody is special in 'FamilyRoom.' We love that the viewers are all meeting up and supporting each other. I think that's what the show exudes."* No matter who tunes in or where the conversation goes, the relationship between Kathy and Kristen sets the tone of *FamilyRoom*. It's the pulse of the show's heartstrings. *"My mom is definitely my best friend,"* says Kristen. *"She had my brother and me so young. I feel like we're growing up together. We learn so much from each other. I feel like she's my sister."* Kathy adds, *"Everybody loves our dynamic as mother-daughter. We even love our dynamic as mother and daughter. There's loads of respect there. We still are growing and we still are learning. I know that I'm tapping into a passion that I really like, working alongside my daughter. I think she is too. We play off of each other."* Kathy and Kristen are now in development with plans to take the show to a network level. In the meantime and until then, they invite everyone to come and find love and comfort in the *FamilyRoom*.

"Kathy and Kristen are such a delight! Their love, empathy, sense of humor, and passion are so engaging – it's like cozying up, and being welcomed into the home of two close friends. Can't wait to see more!" – Janelle Burrell, Anchor, CBS Philly

"Kathy Sledge and Kristen Gabrielle always bring viewers a show that has the warmth and depth of Oprah, the fun and spontaneity of Ellen... I believe they are on to something big!"
– Christian John Wikane, Pop Matters

Family Room | Wednesdays 8pm + Saturdays 12:30pm EST | kathysledge.com/familyroom



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