

## Michaele Salahi on 'The View': A case of she said-she said

### THE TV COLUMN

Lisa de Moraes

**O**n the eve of Michaele Salahi's debut on Bravo's "The Real Housewives of D.C." — and five days after her husband, Tareq, threw a glass of wine at another cast member while the housewives were attending Summer TV Press Tour 2010 to promote their new show — America's favorite alleged White House party crashers have accused Whoopi Goldberg of verbally attacking and abusing Michaele on ABC's "The View."

It all started Wednesday when "The View" brought out D.C.'s "Real Housewives" to talk about their show, which debuts Thursday night. Here's how it went down:

Addressing Michaele, co-host Sherri Shepherd notes that Tareq "was supposed to be here, but apparently something happened that made the women feel a little bit uncomfortable being around your husband. What happened?"

Michaele explains that, in the past, castmate Lynda Erkiletian has teased Michaele about being too thin.

At that point, it gets

complicated:

Sherri says Lynda should tell the story, because "it happened to Lynda."

Lynda says she was the one who was "accosted with the red wine."

Michaele protests, insisting that the question was addressed to her.

Co-host Joy Behar tells them to "save it for your show."

Sherri weighs in, in favor of Lynda telling the story, since the wine toss happened to her.

Joy seconds the motion.

Lynda says that she was sitting at a table (Friday at the Beverly Hills Hilton hotel, where Summer TV Press Tour 2010 is happening) and that Tareq was being "verbally abusive to two women sitting at our table" and "I just basically said, 'Can you keep it down?'" — after which, she says, Tareq "threw a glass of red wine on me."

Michaele says Lynda then threw a glass of Scotch back, "so

there was wine, scotch."

Sherri asks, "Who threw the wine first?" Sherri is clearly having trouble keeping up.

"It was the anorexic — beauty comes in all sizes," Michaele says. Seriously — we don't make this stuff up.

"What does that have to do with him abusing women," Lynda snaps.

"Because you've been abusing me. You're a woman," Michaele shouts.

"That gives him the right to abuse other women?" Lynda asks, rhetorically.

At this point, Whoopi, who had not been part of the Ugly Sofa Gaggle, walks out onstage, touches Michaele on the small of her back and her arm to get her attention and says: "Excuse me, can you get back to the White House, please?" The camera cuts over to show Whoopi turning and walking offstage.

"I want to go forward," Sherri says, a little flustered.

"Yeah, I felt someone touch me," Michaele says.

At some point after "The View" appearance, someone threw this

statement in Whoopi's face via Michaele's Facebook page:

"Salahis will address on Thursday Morning LIVE on National TV the outrageous abuse and exchange that took place on the ABC Show the View and a audio & video file from Whoopi Goldberg verbal attack to Michaele. Standby for details."

By Wednesday afternoon, the post had been removed from Michaele's Facebook page.

Nonetheless, "The View" tossed this statement — like a glass of hotel scotch — back at the Salahis:

"At one point during Michaele Salahi's appearance on 'The View' on Wednesday, Whoopi lightly touched Ms. Salahi to get her attention and said to her 'Excuse me, can you get back to the White House, please,' meaning could Ms. Salahi return to the original subject of the conversation. After the show, Ms. Salahi and her husband accused Whoopi of hitting Ms. Salahi. As the broadcast clearly shows, the accusation was completely unfounded and erroneous. After the show and after being told she was being accused of hitting Ms. Salahi, Whoopi proceeded to defend herself verbally from this baseless claim in a heated exchange with the Salahis."

Michaele (though not Tareq) and the other housewives are booked to appear on NBC's "Today" show Thursday morning to plug the Thursday night debut. NBC and "Housewives" home Bravo are both owned by NBC Universal.

And Bravo is staying as far away from this as possible, declining to comment.



FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

**HOT TOPIC:** There's drama among the "Real Housewives of D.C." From left: Mary Amons, Michaele Salahi, Stacie Scott Turner, Catherine Ommanney and Lynda Erkiletian.



HOOVER INSTITUTION

**MONEY WOES:** Some question the funding for a PBS series about George Shultz, left, who was Ronald Reagan's secretary of state.

last two decades had been."

During his Q&A session at the Summer TV Press Tour 2010, critics and panelists started to play the Who-Belongs-In-the-Hall-of-Fame Game and Burns made his suggestion about Rose, who in 1989 was banned for life from baseball because of his

aired last month, was produced for PBS by Free to Choose Media, a nonprofit production company that says it focuses on "issues of personal, economic and political freedom."

Before it aired, questions were raised about some of the funding for the three-hour project. Among the funders, according

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