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A baby mama's take on 'Baby Mama'

Local surrogate gives her view of the flick.

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The new hit flick "Baby Mama" strikes a topic that's been hot controversy in the news lately – the idea of surrogate births.

We've given [our opinion](#) of the movie, but thought we'd ask someone who'd have an inside perspective on the topic – a surrogate mom. We chatted via e-mail with Amy Kaplan, a former surrogate mom and director of [West Coast Surrogacy, Inc.](#) in Aliso Viejo. Here's her take on the film:

Q: So, what did you think of Baby Mama? Loved it? Hated it? Why?

A: I was disappointed by the movie, as I felt the exaggerated stereotypes depicted in the film did a grave disservice to the view of surrogacy in our society.

Q: What was your favorite part of the movie? Least favorite?

A: My favorite part would be the happy ending, with both women experiencing motherhood. With

surrogacy, a bond develops between the surrogate mother and the intended parent. I am happy that the movie touched on the strength of this type of relationship.

My least favorite part of the movie is when the plot took a twist for the absolute worst and the surrogate lied about being pregnant with Tina Fey's character's baby. Many people who contemplate having a surrogate carry their baby consider the possibility that their surrogate may not be trustworthy. A movie like this has the potential to feed into these fears and may even discourage people from moving forward with surrogacy.

Q: Do you think the movie accurately depicts the challenges parents face when choosing the surrogacy route? Why or why not?

A: The movie did touch on some of the elements that people face during infertility; unsuccessful infertility procedures, the possibility of adoption, and finally surrogacy. However, I don't think that the movie realistically portrayed the emotional impact that these processes have on a person/couple.

Q: As a former surrogate and founder of a surrogate agency, what is the funniest experience you encountered, either in your own surrogate pregnancies or with a mother?

A: When I was pregnant as a surrogate, the intended parents had a party to announce to their friends and family that they were expecting twins. No one at the party knew the reason why they were invited to celebrate. Guests were asked to write down on a piece of paper their guess as to why they were there.

Soon, a live stork walked into the party. Shortly thereafter, I followed with a large, obviously pregnant belly. Later we read everyone's guess as to why they were gathered together. One person was

right!

Q: How do you respond to people who refer to surrogacy as a rent-a-womb service?

A: Some people have a strong position about surrogacy and are not open to considering another viewpoint. Other people may lack the information that allows them to see surrogacy as an opportunity for women to help people have children in a loving and compassionate way.

I hope that surrogacy will continue to be discussed in the media, allowing for a more realistic view of surrogacy to be formed by our society.

Q: Why did you choose to be a surrogate?

A: As I was approaching 40, I realized that I would not be having more children of my own; which also meant that I would not be pregnant again. Many women associate their ability or inability to reproduce as a part of womanhood. I found myself saddened by the idea of not experiencing pregnancy again.

I had considered surrogacy since my 20s and knew that it was now or never as the optimal age for a surrogate mother is 21 to 40. I chose now.

I have two wonderful children that are my reason to rise. I am blessed to be able to help other women; as an egg donor, as a surrogate mother, and now as the director of [West Coast Surrogacy](#) .

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