

# Kim Fields: The 'Question of Faith' Interview

By Kam Williams  
For The Skanner News



Kim Fields

**K**im Fields is a veteran actress with an eminent household name, starring in two long-running series, NBC's "Facts of Life" and Fox' "Living Single." Both shows remain in worldwide syndication, consistently reinforcing her place as a global, pop culture icon.

As an esteemed and versatile performer, Kim has accumulated numerous starring and guest starring roles in TV movies and series, as well as independent feature films over her 40-year career, including "What To Expect When You're Expecting" starring Jennifer Lopez and Cameron Diaz. In 2014, she starred in one of the Hallmark Channel's highest-rated movies, "For Better Or For Worse", proving her endurance as a fan favorite and industry staple.

She has also returned to the stage several times for powerful performances in one-woman shows, as well as leading all-star casts in successful ensemble productions. The start of her next 40 years in showbiz finds Kim currently starring in the new British comedy series, "Living The Dream" for Sky TV. And she is thrilled to return to ABC for the exciting reboot of the hit "Battle of the Network Stars".

But perhaps nothing is more thrilling for Kim these days than the fall release of her highly anticipated autobiography, "Blessed Life." With arresting transparency, humor and chock full of many personal stories of joy, pain, triumphs and challenges as well as wonderfully-delightful tales of growing up in Hollywood,

can increase." I feel the same way as an actor. Let Kim decrease, so the character can increase. So, I'm extremely grateful for that observation and comment from you.

**KW:** You played Tootie for close to a decade between "Diff'rent Strokes" and "The Facts of Life." Do you think you were typecast by playing such an iconic role for so long?

**KF:** Not at all. I never felt typecast. I've done many different types of projects, some even while playing Tootie, whether TV movies, on the stage or independent features.

**KW:** You've directed before. Have you thought about directing a film in which you also star?

**KF:** Absolutely! I think

of that often. It keeps me up sometimes. I even have a camera in my bedroom. In the near future, I hope to adapt my collection of short stories, "When Bad Women Happen to Good Men," into a script, and then play one,

rested for protesting the police shooting of a Black woman. I could see you playing Trayvon Martin's mother in a docudrama about his killing. Are you still interested in that as an issue?

**KF:** Oh, very much so.

**“** Activism and social awareness have always been a part of who I am, and even more so now as the mother of African American boys and the wife of an African American man

if not all, of the women featured. I love the world of independent films and hope to be a part of someday.

**KW:** You were once ar-

In fact, I'm in the midst of creating and launching a social initiative around that and much more. Activism and social awareness have always been a part of who I am, and

even more so now as the mother of African American boys and the wife of an African American man. A concern for them and for everyone is in the fabric of my DNA. And it's important to me to that my voice not just regurgitate complaints but offer solutions, which calls for a little more strategizing. I'm not interested in stirring the pot simply for the sake of stirring the pot. At some point, we have to change the ingredients, if we want a different taste. That's the type of citizen and leader I am.

**KW:** What did you think of President Trump's waffling response to Charlottesville in which he suggested

See INTERVIEW on page 11

**TAKE ME TO THE RIVER – A MEMPHIS SOUL, RHYTHM & BLUES REVUE**  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7:30 PM

A live concert journey into the soul of American music with William Bell, Charlie Musselwhite, Bobby Rush, Frayser Boy, Al Kapone, the Hi Rhythm Section, and the Stax Alumni Band.

*The Oregon Symphony does not perform.*

Tickets start at \$20

**OREGON SYMPHONY**

orsymphony.org | 503-228-1353  
ARLENE SCHNITZER CONCERT HALL

**SWEET JAM**  
*Southern Breakfast Meets Music*

**NOW OPEN ON MLK**

**5237 NE MLK JR BLVD, PORTLAND, OR 97211**

**ENJOY 15% OFF**  
DINE IN ONLY

**PHONE. 503.477.8341**  
**ADDRESS: 5237 NE MLK JR BLVD, OR 97211**

**WWW.PORTLANDSWEETJAM.COM**

**EXPIRE: NOV. 15TH, 2017**