



## Movies & TV

### Interview: "Real Housewives of DC" star Stacie Turner

#### Metromix gets the scoop on the Salahis, what to expect on the show and much more!

*Special to Metromix*

She's definitely not your average reality star! Ivy League-educated, happily married and successful in her own right, Stacie Turner is a standout in many ways on Bravo TV's latest hit reality show "Real Housewives of DC." Dubbed by fans as the "normal one," Stacie also shares the distinct honor of being the only African American housewife on a show based in a town once known as the "Chocolate City," and the only housewife to actually live in Washington, DC, which leads to some interesting yet entertaining cross cultural challenges with castmates.

However, don't expect any table flipping here; DC is known for politics and back door deals and the cast is well versed on how to deal with undesirables in untraceable ways. In this interview, Stacie opens up about life in the foster care system, her opinion on the Salahis and her favorite places to hang out in the District. She also gives us the inside dish on tonight's show and why the hell she would ever agree to be on reality TV!



**Hi Stacie, let's get right to it! How were you selected for the show but more importantly why did you agree to be on this show?**

Bravo producers were talking to different people in DC and asking for names of women who represent a DC lifestyle and my name kept coming up. I was actually on vacation when they called and the minute I heard "reality show" I said no, but they kept calling. The producers explained that they wanted the DC installment to be a little different from the others and the concepts they presented sounded really positive. I thought it would be a good opportunity to highlight my real estate business and the work I do with the foster care system and youth with my organization Extra-ordinary Life. [Extra-ordinary Life](#) exposes teen girls to opportunities for growth, travel and cultural experiences.

**Your organization works with youth in the foster care system and you had a personal experience that inspired this work. Tell us about it.**

Well, viewers will learn on the show that I'm actually adopted and I do find my birth mom on the show but my birth parents put me in foster care at 6 months through DC Family and Child Services now known as Family Matters. I was lucky; 2,500 youth in DC never get adopted and age out the system, but I was adopted by Katherine and Thomas Scott who loved me and raised me until Katherine passed away when I was 13. Thomas then raised me as a single father and he worked for a government printing office. My mom (Katherine) worked for the Pentagon and I was raised in Alexandria, Virginia in one of the only all black neighborhoods in Fairfax County.

**Your organization Extra-ordinary Life actually took a group of girls to South Africa during the World Cup. How was that?**

It was such an amazing experience! It just happened to be that the World Cup was being held for the first time in an African continent while we were there. The experience was unbelievable, the rich culture of Africa and the history of apartheid, provided so many teaching moments for the girls. We paired them with African teens living in an orphanage

who served as Ambassadors to our girls and it really showed both groups that you are not alone, there are others in similar circumstances in the world. Our girls really learned that the world is so much bigger than DC. Most had not been outside the Beltway before our trip! The best part for me is that I got to know the girls on a personal level -- their lives and their day to day struggles. It inspired me to find more ways to reach them and expand our programs.

**Hopefully we will get to see some of that positivity on the show. You guys just started and are already swamped by controversy due to the infamous Salahis. What are they really like?**

My husband Jason and I were paired with them often for scenes and I actually thought they were pretty nice people. I enjoyed them a lot in the six months of taping especially Mechale, she's a really nice person when she's by herself but unfortunately when you add cameras and sometimes when she's with her husband, everything changes. I really didn't have a problem with them until we started promo for the show, I just feel they were not team players. They missed appearances and have been really trying to make the show about them when it is so much more than that. I really hate that people get the impression that the show is only about the White House scandal. We taped many funny, poignant moments and we have a very wonderful cast of characters. This show is so much more than Crashgate.

**So if you threw a party and invited everyone you knew...would she be invited?**

Actually no, I would not, there's too much drama that goes along with them when I see them. I've actually been able to form friendships with all of the other cast members and I really enjoyed the experience.

**How does the show work? Do you have cameras in your home 24 hours a day?**

Oh no, I never would have agreed to that, everything is scheduled. We give the producers our schedule and they look at the activities we have planned and they say oh you are attending this event? We would like to tape that. Anything that happens while the cameras are there is fair game, however if you don't want something on camera you simply don't include it in your schedule and the production company respects your boundaries.

**Speaking of drama, you had more than a few awkward moments in the show's first episode with the whole equality in hair salon speech from s tipsy Mary, but Kat really got tongues wagging with her opinionated tirade on the President and Tyra Banks. What were you really thinking when Kat made those comments.**

One thing I will say about Kat... now I like her a lot but her first impression... when you are a guest in someone's home for the first time and being super opinionated like that it was more rudeness than anything else. I was more off put that she was dominating the conversation and didn't seem to notice the reactions of my other guests and the fact that they, as well as myself, found her comments offensive. As I have gotten to know her and learned what she was going through at the time, it helped me understand her better and I actually really like her now and find her candor refreshing, but it definitely didn't start off that way as you will see in tonight's episode.

**What can we expect tonight?**

Tonight you will see I invited the ladies to my aunt's house and all I can say is the sparks fly when Kat's mouth gets her in some big trouble! She ends up leaving and well you have to watch tonight!

**What was your favorite moment on the show or funniest?**

I think it would have to be when the Salahis invited us all to their vineyard for a grape stomp to make wine. When we got there, there were no grapes on the vines and they had purchased grapes for us to stomp! We could see the tags from the grocery store and everything, it was hilarious! We stepped into these buckets and there were only like two inches of grapes and we are just stomping away because there was supposed to be a contest between us on who could stomp out the most juice. Well, we stomped and stomped and stomped but no juice was coming out, that's when we learned that the store bought grapes did not have the correct texture for winemaking! They were the wrong type of grapes for winemaking. We could not stop laughing, it was sooo funny!

**As the only actual DC resident, what is it that keeps you living in the District?**

I love DC! There's an energy I feel in the city. I feel an energy driven by the rich diversity of the people and neighborhoods. From mainstream businesses to arts and entertainment and of course the political landscape, DC is a quirky city that has it all.

**What are some of your favorite places to hang out?**

Jason and I go out on “date” night on Fridays or Saturdays and we love to go to **Cork**, a wine bar on U Street. We also love **Oya** for sushi. We like the bar and margaritas at **Tony and Joe's** and we recently we went to National Harbor and found a great steakhouse, **Old Hickory**. We loved that we could see the sunset; it's amazing!

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