

Karla Cheatham Mosley, star of "Hi5," the children's champion

By **KHALID J. STRICKLAND**

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Upon meeting actress Karla

Cheatham Mosley, it's easy to understand why children all over the world adore her work on "Hi5," the Emmy-nominated kids' TV show airing on The Discovery Channel. Cheerful and animated, Mosley's pretty face is vibrant with expression dur-

ing her interview with The Amsterdam News. The young thespian from Westchester, New York, also has a unique and pleasant high-pitched voice.

It's no wonder the PBS network brought Mosley aboard to do voice-over work for "Nate the Great," an upcoming animated show based on a series of best-selling children's books. As part of the multi-ethnic cast of "Hi5," Mosley always gives an energetic performance, teaching children essential life lessons through song, dance and fun activities. Although she's performed on-stage in theater productions that cater to grown-ups, Kara Mosley insisted that entertaining and working with kids is her primary goal.

"I've been a teacher, a camp counselor and a babysitter," explained Mosley. "That's always the way that I've been employed and volunteered; just [to] spend my time with a part of the population I really connect to. And for me, [kids] teach me so much because they're so fearless and so likely to jump into anything and be so open. It reminds me that as an adult, we can do that. That's kind of what I think our ideal is really in life. So much of what we do as adults...we can teach children so much. [But] really, when it comes down to it, I feel like we spend our whole lives learning and then stripping everything away to become children again."

The popularity of "Hi5," a variety show that originated in Australia before being adapted for an American audience, is currently a worldwide phenomenon. Mosley and her castmates have toured the planet, visiting excited fans in numerous countries. Yahoo! also hosts a website called "Karla's

Hi5 Korner," an online shrine created by and for fans of Karla Mosley. Mosley is appreciative of the accolades she and "Hi5" have been showered with.

"This show is the perfect combination of my love for children and love for working with people with my love for music and theater," explicated Mosley. "The show is also extremely musical; it's very movement-based. It's all about getting up off of the couch and not just watching TV, but getting involved and interactive. Because the kids know all of the dances, they come to know us. They get up and really get involved."

Despite the massive success of "Hi5" and a promising future with plenty of upside, Karla Mosley's goals are not based on material items and the trappings of fame.

"[I'd like] a career that serves on two levels," Mosley stated. "One being the visceral; people see it, they enjoy it, they can laugh, they can sing, they can cry, they can dance—all the amazing stuff that art does. Then the second part of that is serving on a real level, which is teaching, being in community centers, traveling to different parts of the world, knowing about what's going on. You know, picking up a paper and reading the alternate news sources; just being aware and listening and not shutting a blind eye. Especially as I have more opportunities and more success come my way, [I'll] remember to turn around because I wouldn't have the successes I have if other people hadn't turned around and helped me along."

For more info on Karla Cheatham Mosley and "Hi5," visit www.hi-5us.com.

