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Saving Face

To call TAMMY FENDER an aesthetician is to call caviar fish eggs. Fender's holistic skin-care therapies, which she offers at her downtown West Palm Beach studio, are so sought-after by celebrities and social stars that it takes at least a month to land an appointment with her.

Those who are patient, however, are rewarded. Fender's facials and pre- and post-operative treatments — based on vitamins, plant-based products, medical-grade oxygen, and infrared and blue-light therapies — are food for the skin. Her formulations are custom-blended in a spotless, lablike facility. And her privacy standards are legendary: Because of her clients' high profiles, she has a back stairway so they can exit undetected.

"This is a one-on-one skin clinic," says Fender, 37. "No one ever has to run into anyone else."

Just who are her clients? Melania Trump, for one (the two met when Fender was skin-care director at The Mar-a-Lago Club). Social circuit fixtures Sydell Miller, Marjorie Gubelmann Raein and Lili Monell are devotees. So is a certain actress, whom Fender is too diplomatic to name.

"She asked me to be her full-time aesthetician," Fender says of the mystery client. "I declined; I have children."

PAST LIFE: Before going into skin care, Fender studied psychology. Her training serves her well now. "Clients often tell me my facials are like therapy sessions," she says.

A REAL WINNER: Fender has standing appointments for her Oscar Night facial, which uses micellized vitamins, oxygen and light therapy to give skin an instant lift.

ABOUT TIME: Fender books appointments 1½ hours apart, so she never rushes from one session to another. "It's not about booking more clients," she says. "It's about me being peaceful."



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