

Parade

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022 | PARADE.COM

JESSICA Chastain

On playing everyone from Tammy Faye Bakker to a true-crime hero, and why her role in *The Help* wasn't her favorite

Plus

Holiday Sneak
Peek, p. 6



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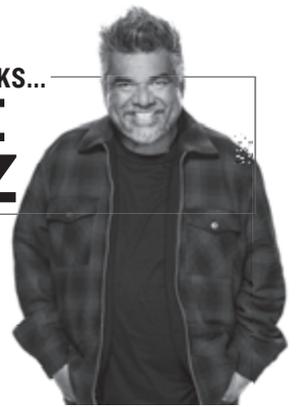
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Personality

Parade

WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

GEORGE LOPEZ



FIGHTING FOR HER RIGHTS

Set in Chicago in 1968 and inspired by true events, *Call Jane* (in theaters Oct. 28) is a comedy-drama about a suburban housewife (**Elizabeth Banks**) who fights for women's rights by joining a group of underground female activists fiercely committed to the cause during a time when abortion was criminalized throughout most of America. "[The film] is urgent," especially after the recent overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, says Banks, 48, whose résumé includes the *Pitch Perfect* and *Hunger Games* franchises and TV's *30 Rock* and *Modern Family*. "I love working on historical things that have relevance in today's world." *Call Jane* also stars **Sigourney Weaver** and Kate Mara.

MORE GREEK WEDDINGS + A BIT OF HORROR

Nia Vardalos is best known for her comedy in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and its sequel. But now she's shaking things up with a role in Guillermo del Toro's *Cabinet of Curiosities* (Oct. 25 on Netflix), a new horror anthology from the acclaimed director. Her episode, "Dreams in the Witch House," is based on a nearly century-old story by horror maestro H.P. Lovecraft. On the sunnier side, Vardalos, 60, is happy to report that she's wrapped up filming *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3*. "Making this film is the longest time I have ever been in Greece, and I am [even] more in love with this country and our people."



The TV sitcom staple, talk show host and award-winning comedian, 61, returns to broadcast television with his new working-class family comedy, *Lopez vs. Lopez* (Nov. 4 on NBC). The show couldn't be more aptly named: It also stars Lopez's real-life daughter, Mayan, 26, and is based on her social-media postings about her dad.

Your stand-up comedy examines race, ethnic relations and Mexican American culture. Is that the idea behind *Lopez vs. Lopez* too?

No. This show wasn't created by me, it was created by [writer-producer] Debby Wolfe from seeing Mayan's TikToks about our strained relationship. Based on our awkwardness, also on my divorce, Mayan and I didn't speak for . . . it might be three years.

Have you always known that Mayan is funny?

I knew when Mayan was maybe 12 or so that her wit was on the level of mine or [her mother] Ann's, who's also very funny. I remember telling her that sometimes the first thing that pops into your head can be very funny, but I'd be concerned with where you say it. Control your instincts to be funny, because it might be more hurtful to somebody than a normal comment would be.

"The Lopez Way" is talked about in the pilot. What is that?

Boundaries. When somebody comes over to your house, if somebody went into my refrigerator, that would be [breaking] boundaries. Or noise boundaries. Or one time I let a guy stay with me as a guest in my house and he made a duplicate copy of my key. So he had to go. Personal space is a thing.

What would you like to see as your legacy?

There are a lot of fathers who are estranged, and mothers and families who are estranged from their brothers and sisters, and people that don't talk. I would like my legacy to be that I presented an opportunity for people to close divisions that they have. Or to reimagine what it would be like to have a relationship with someone where you thought all hope was lost.

Go to [Parade.com/lopez](https://www.parade.com/lopez) to find out the unexpected way a kidney transplant changed his life.

YES, SIR!

Two-time Oscar winner **Sir Anthony Hopkins**—knighted in 1993 by Queen Elizabeth for his service to the arts—plays the grandfather in the period drama *Armageddon Time* (in theaters Oct. 28), about a family's generational pursuit of the American dream, set in the 1980s. Here are some fun facts about the acclaimed actor, now 84, who won Oscars for *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991) and *The Father* (2020).



▶ He wanted to become a concert pianist, but when he was 15, he met Richard Burton, who encouraged him to study acting.

▶ Hopkins did his mandatory service in the British Army's Royal Artillery regiment, where he was known as "Gunner Hopkins."

For his performance as Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs*, he almost never blinked when he spoke, a characteristic he picked up from watching tapes of convicted murderer Charles Manson.



▶ He has played two U.S. presidents: Richard Nixon in *Nixon* and John Quincy Adams in *Amistad*.

▶ He became the oldest person—at 83—to receive an Oscar for Best Actor in a Leading Role when he won for *The Father*.

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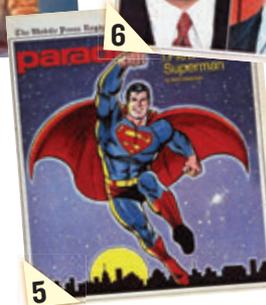
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THIS WEEK IN Parade MAGAZINE



1 October 23, 1949 Trixie the Hat Juggler

Trixie La Rue, a star attraction at the “Howdy Mr. Ice” show in New York, doesn’t just juggle (hats, plates, bouncing balls)—she does it on ice skates! Trixie learned her art from her juggling stepfather, Oscar Frisky.

2 October 24, 1954 Marlon Brando as Napoleon

Screwball or genius? That is the question posed in this *Parade* magazine cover story about 30-year-old controversial actor Marlon Brando. “There are two schools of thought about this handsome, 5-foot-10 hunk of masculinity,” writer Lloyd Shearer opined. “Bud,” as some friends and fans quoted in the article call him, wowed with his amazing performances (“If he’s not a genius, then I’ve never seen one,” said *On the Waterfront* director Elia Kazan) and with his hijinks (lighting a sweater on fire in a department store) and “disreputable” dress (so bad Hollywood restaurants wouldn’t serve him). The “screwball-genius” label stuck with Brando his entire life.

3 October 28, 2001 We Choose Honor

Six weeks after 9/11, Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel reflected on our response as a nation in *Parade*. “The American people did not bend,” he said. “Even when faced with the murderous madness of criminals, and in the presence of the silent agony of their victims, it is incumbent upon us to choose between escape and solidarity, shame and honor. The terrorists have chosen shame. We choose honor.”

4 October 25, 1953 Is He Laughing?

Whenever you see a cat laughing, says photographer Walter Chandoha, who took *Parade*’s cover shot, they are simply yawning or meowing. But, he admitted to *Parade*, cats sometimes do seem to smile.

5 October 23, 1977 I Flew With Superman

Look up in the sky! It’s a bird! It’s a plane! It’s Mort Weisinger! As editor (from 1940 to 1970) of the world-famous comic book, Weisinger plotted Superman’s adventures and went along—vicariously—for the ride. He admits he was jealous of the hero. “I resented basking in reflected glory,” he said.

6 October 31, 1976 Ford and Carter Talk About Themselves

Published the weekend before the presidential election, this *Parade* cover story revealed the candidates’ hopes for themselves and for the nation. Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter spoke of his commitment to civil rights and the environment and said of himself, “I’m a careful planner. I have a scientific and engineering background. I’m an administrator.” Republican candidate Gerald Ford admitted, “I probably don’t come down hard enough on people. . . . I’m very tolerant of human errors.” Advisers called him a “decent, honest and trustworthy man”; a man willing to listen to and consider multiple opinions. Ford may have put his finger on why he went on to lose the election: “I think the biggest problem is we have not sold the things we’ve done as effectively as we should.”



SCAN TO SIGN UP FOR MORE
PARADE

7 October 26, 1980 Frightening Fashions You Can Create

At publication time, movieland’s most renowned designer, **Edith Head**, had dressed the stars for more than 50 years—everyone from Bette Davis to Grace Kelly. The legend created imaginative costumes for *Parade* readers, including pirates and ghosts and devils made of found objects. Head ends her article with a prediction about the trick-or-treaters of 1980: “Some young witch or ‘Wookiee’ will start designing Hollywood’s future costumes. I can feel it in my bones, and I can’t wait.” She died Oct. 24, 1981.



8 October 26, 1947 Harvest and Halloween

That’s Jerry Travis, 9, of Lake Geneva, Wis., amid the cornstalks on the cover in a photograph by Samuel Mysliss. The corn harvest was down that year, thanks to bad weather, *Parade* reported, but “even so, there will be plenty of dried cornstalks and ripened ears of corn to go with the pumpkins, black cats and witches—the traditional symbols of Halloween.”

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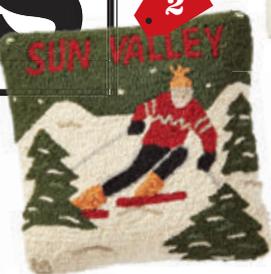
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1

Holiday Sneak Peek

Too early to be thinking about the holidays? Never! Here's what's trending for 2022 in decor and gifts. —Megan O'Neill Melle



2



3



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10



11

1. A customer favorite for its realistic look, the artificial **Real Touch Norfolk Pine Garland** dresses up tablescapes, mantels, entryways and wherever you need a bit of green. As much as we love the real thing, this garland fits the sustainable trend, as it can be reused annually for many years to come. **\$58, afloral.com**
2. Cozy hand-hooked pillows (like **Snow Sports Pillows**, made of premium wool) check two trendy boxes: our love for items that are nostalgic and personalized. **\$199, markandgraham.com**
3. Here's a thoughtful gift that smells great and is environmentally friendly too. Kobo's **Heath Lavender Candle**, part of its Plant the Box collection, is packaged in a biodegradable, seed-infused box that recipients can plant. **\$29, kobocandles.com**
4. Game night offerings—like the **Sudoku Wooden Board Game** from Kubiya Games—are always a great

5. Home scents are all the rage, and this **Pura Smart Fragrance Diffuser** ups the fragrance game. Using an app, you (or your favorite gift recipient) can adjust the scent intensity and create on/off schedules right from a smartphone. Choose scents from favorite brands, such as Capri Blue, NEST, LAFCO and Apotheke. **\$44 for device, trypura.com**
6. Need a gift for your holiday hosts? This **Night Before Christmas Personalized Book** can be customized with the family's last name, children's names, location and more. **\$35, iseeme.com**
7. Glassware in festive hues—like these handblown **Italian Retro Goblets**—help set the holiday scene. **\$68 (set of two), food52.com**
8. Radiate's **Portable Campfire** is the

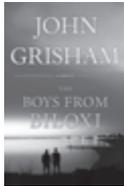
- perfect miniature gift for adventurers to take on the road for safe fire-gazing and s'mores roasting. **\$28, radiateportablecampfire.com**
9. It's not the holidays without a hot toddy. This whimsical **Nutcracker-themed Holiday Porcelain Mug** serves it up in style. **\$22, riflepaperco.com**
10. For the holiday traveler who doesn't want their headwear squished and deformed when stashed in luggage, the **Toptote Hat Holder** by Lindsay Albanese uses a magnet and clip to secure the brim to a bag and allow for hands-free travel. **\$69, nordstrom.com**
11. This stellar stocking stuffer delivers an upgraded shower experience. **Ouai Scalp and Body Scrub** (made with sugar crystals and coconut oil) leaves winter skin velvety smooth and with just a hint of rose, bergamot, lychee and cedarwood. **\$38, theouai.com**

Books

WE LOVE

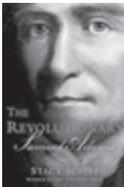
NEW RIGHT NOW

A decade-spanning legal thriller from John Grisham, *The Boys From Biloxi* (Doubleday) is set within the 1960s Dixie Mafia, where the sons of two rival immigrant families end up on opposite sides of the law. **\$30**



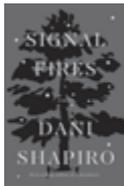
In *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*

(Oct. 25, Little, Brown), Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Stacy Schiff argues that Adams' efforts during the Revolutionary War did more to bring about independence than those of any other Founding Father. **\$35**



Bestselling author Dani Shapiro (*Inheritance*) has published her first novel in 15 years.

Signal Fires (Knopf) follows a constellation of characters over five decades, a horrific accident, a twist of fate and secrets so dangerous they can't be spoken. **\$28**



Set in Belfast during the Troubles and drawn from author Louise Kennedy's own childhood, *Trespasses* (Nov. 1, Riverhead) is about forbidden love and the effects of violence, loyalty and political and religious unrest. **\$27**



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Jessica Chastain

You don't need fingerprints and a DNA match to know we're in the midst of a true-crime wave. Enter Jessica Chastain, 45, who plays a real-life heroine in a gripping Netflix thriller, *The Good Nurse* (streaming Oct. 26).

Based on actual events (and a 2013 book), it's the shocking story of how New Jersey nurse Amy Loughren, a single mom with a heart condition, risked her career—and her life—to uncover the truth behind a mysterious series of patient deaths at her hospital. Turns out that her mild-mannered colleague Charles Cullen (Eddie Redmayne) was responsible, and his sinister work reached farther back than anyone fathomed.

"Amy used love and compassion to stop the cycle of violence," Chastain tells *Parade*. "She doesn't bully him; she doesn't make him feel smaller. She just wants to know why. With everything in true crime so sensationalized now, that approach is the story I wanted to tell."

Since 2011, Chastain has been at the heart of many of film's best stories, including *The Tree of Life*, *The Help*, *Zero Dark Thirty*, *Interstellar*, *A Most Violent Year*, *The Martian*, *Molly's Game*, *It Chapter Two*, *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* and last year's award-winning limited series *Scenes From a Marriage*, with Oscar Isaac.

Her success is even more remarkable given where she started. A native of

ON PLAYING A TRUE-CRIME HEROINE, THE THRILL OF WINNING AN OSCAR FOR *THE EYES OF TAMMY FAYE* AND WHY HER ROLE IN *THE HELP* WASN'T HER FAVORITE

BY MARA REINSTEIN



True-crime thriller *The Good Nurse* stars Chastain and Eddie Redmayne.

continued on page 9



COVER BY ARI + LOU/AUGUST; FEATURE CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN: CHARLES SYKES/BRAVO/NBCU PHOTO BANK VIA GETTY IMAGES; MIRAMAX FILMS/EVERETT; WARNER BROS./EVERETT; JOJO WHILDEN/NETFLIX

— Chastain's CHOICES



FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MOVIE "The *Goonies* [1985]. I loved the bond of that friendship, and I loved the idea of what they accomplished as a team."



MOST INFLUENTIAL ACTOR "In high school, I saw Ralph Fiennes in *Schindler's List* and *The English Patient*, and I didn't understand how it was possible for one actor to play such different characters."



BOOK ON THE NIGHTSTAND (Runs to get book from nightstand.) "Lust by Elfriede Jelinek. She's amazing. She won the Nobel Prize for literature."

from page 8

Sacramento, Calif., Chastain and her four siblings were raised by her mom and firefighter stepdad in a loving but financially strapped household. She'd occasionally attend a few local plays but could only dream that one day she'd get paid to act. "I grew up in a way that I never thought I'd be invited to the party," she says. "It affects every decision I make in terms of where I put my resources and what I act in."

She resides in New York City with her husband of five years, Italian fashion executive (and royal count!) Gian Luca Passi de Preposulo, and their two children, Giulietta, 4, and Augustus, 2. "I'm fiercely protective and want to make sure they're growing up in a nonintrusive environment," she says about her kids.

She's on vacation at the family's English country home when she Zooms with *Parade* to discuss the good (*Nurse*), the bad and everything in between.

If you were in Amy's real-life shoes in the circumstances of *The Good Nurse*, would you have put yourself in danger like she did? I'd like to think so. In one of my first conversations with Amy, I told her how brave she was, and she said that anyone would have tried to stop these senseless murders under those circumstances. It's kind of a generous thing to say about humanity.

It's unnerving to see Eddie Redmayne in such a chilling role. Did you two already know each other? We presented together once at the Golden Globes. And then when he did *The Danish Girl* [in 2015], everyone kept saying that he looked like me. I emailed him a picture

and wrote, "Bitch, stop stealing my roles!" We've been friends for a while.

What do you make of the true-crime craze? Are you a fan? Well, I grew up with it. I remember when you could turn on cable news and see the O.J. Simpson trial and the Lorena Bobbitt trial. I think that created an appetite for true crime. But we're living in an age where we're magnifying these acts of violence. So I'm picky about it. I like to watch shows like *The Investigation*, which is more about the victim than the murderer. [For a roundup of true-crime movies and TV shows, see page 10.]

Do you consider yourself a movie star? Um, sometimes. Like when people recognize me. I was at a store with my grandma and a friend of mine, and people were walking by and whispering, "I love *The Help*." So it was kind of like, "Don't worry, I'm not going to make a fuss, but I know who you are. And I want you to know I know." Sweet, right? It makes me think, *Oh, I love it when people recognize me!* But then I think, *Do I? Is this my life?*

When did you start thinking seriously about acting? In high school, we'd go on a field trip every year to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. I remember seeing Marco Barri-celli play Richard III, and it blew my mind. Then it became a dream of mine to work in a repertory company. But I never thought it could be a possibility until I played Juliet in a local production of *Romeo and Juliet* and the guy playing Romeo got into Juilliard. I thought, *Well, we're not that different. I'm going to audition too.* That changed everything.

You got a Juilliard scholarship funded by Robin Williams, right? I got that in between my junior and senior year. School was really hard at first because I was so far away [from

continued on page 12

Role PLAY

After graduating from Juilliard, Jessica Chastain's first role was on *ER* in 2004. She was nominated for an Oscar for her work in *The Help* (2011) and *Zero Dark Thirty* (2012); she won in 2022 for her portrayal of Tammy Faye Bakker in *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DALE ROBINETTE/WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES/EVERETT; RICHARD OLLEY/COLUMBIA PICTURES/EVERETT; SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES/EVERETT; UNIVERSAL/EVERETT; JEFF KRAVITZ/GETTY IMAGES FOR MTV/PARAMOUNT GLOBAL



FAVORITE SONG TO CRANK UP IN THE CAR "Lizzo's 'Truth Hurts' is so good."

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED

"It's nice to be nice."

"My stepdad just said it at dinner. It's a motto to live by."

DREAM ROLE "I was just talking to Annie [Hathaway] about this! It would be so fun to remake [1992 black comedy] *Death Becomes Her*. I'll do the **Meryl Streep** or **Goldie Hawn** role. People thought it was garbage! But I think it's a masterpiece."



HALLOWEEN TRADITION "I'm all into showing up at a party and doing the trick-or-treating. We have a friend group in New York and all go out together. But I'm not going to stay past 10 p.m. listening to loud music. I will do the Irish goodbye!"

The True-Crime Craze

“The uptick in true-crime stories is very telling about our contemporary culture,” says Eddie Muller, the host of *Noir Alley* on Turner Classic Movies. “In the original noir era, there was a fascination mixed with disbelief. But now when we see ‘Based on a true story,’ it’s a subtle way of saying ‘This could happen to you.’”

Check out our list of some top true-crime murder movies and TV shows—and the stars who’ve made them.

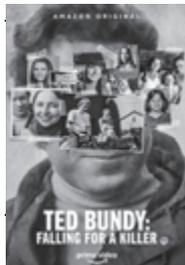
FOXCATCHER (2014)

There’s a chill in the air from the opening moments of this tale of training for the 1988 Olympics. Steve Carell plays John du Pont, who invites wrestler Mark Schultz (Channing Tatum) to move to his estate to train. It sets in motion a dark road that leads to a shocking tragedy. (Hulu)

MINDHUNTER (2017–19)

This expertly crafted series focuses on the team who began the Behavioral Science Unit in the FBI (and ultimately coined the phrase “serial killer.”) The main characters

are fictional: Young and idealistic Holden Ford (Jonathan Groff) teams up with the wise Bill Tench (Holt McCallany) in the 1970s to interview criminals in a bid to learn more about the dark inner workings of murderers. (The killers are real people, including Edmund Kemper and Charles Manson.) (Netflix)



TED BUNDY: FALLING FOR A KILLER (2020) Who was Ted Bundy when he wasn’t manipulating and killing innocent women? A low-key suburban family man who hid a secret life. In this documentary, Elizabeth Kendall, Bundy’s former girlfriend, and her now-grown-daughter, Molly, share what it was like to live under the same roof as one of the world’s most notorious serial killers in the 1970s and early ‘80s. (Prime Video)

ATLANTA’S MISSING AND MURDERED: THE LOST CHILDREN

(2020) Over the course of five painfully heartbreaking episodes, this

series chronicles the disappearance and murder of at least 30 children and young adults in the Atlanta area in the 1970s and ‘80s. The manhunt led to the capture of Wayne Williams, who was convicted in 1982 of killing two adults. Nonetheless, many of the families aren’t convinced the killer(s) have been stopped—thus prompting officials to reopen the case. (Note: This case also served as the basis for the second season of *Mindhunter*.) (Netflix)

I’LL BE GONE IN THE DARK (2020–21) In 2016, Michelle McNamara was writing a book about her crusade to solve the case of California’s notorious “Golden State Killer” when she died suddenly in her sleep. This seven-part docuseries produced by her husband, Patton Oswalt, excels both as a detailed re-creation of McNamara’s doggedness to identify the man—who often whispered the ghoulish titular words to his victims in their homes—and as a riveting examination of McNamara’s life as she consumed herself with her DIY investigation. Alas, she did not live to see Joseph James DeAngelo’s arrest in 2018. (HBO Max)

THE STAIRCASE (2022) Kathleen Peterson’s fatal fall down her North Carolina staircase in 2001—and the subsequent court cases that ended with her husband, novelist Michael Peterson, being convicted of murder—has spawned podcasts, a groundbreaking 2004 documentary and an intriguing series starring **Toni Collette** and **Colin Firth**. While it’s not a traditional whodunit, Firth, who plays Michael, has described it as “the study of a family and the whole idea of mystery even with people you’re closest to—it compels you.” Peterson still maintains his innocence. (HBO Max)



DR. DEATH (2021) Like *The Good Nurse*, this is a harrowing medical horror story. Joshua Jackson (*The Affair*) plays Christopher Duntsch, a charming and well-regarded Texas-based neurosurgeon who uses his scalpel to harm his patients. Surgeons Randall Kirby (Christian Slater) and Robert Henderson (Alec Baldwin) first investigate suspicious claims of injury and death, then quickly make it their mission to stop him from scrubbing in ever again. The bad doctor is currently serving a life sentence in prison. (Peacock)



HOUSE OF GUCCI (2021) Glamour, wealth, style, lust, jealousy, murder. All the boxes are checked in a salacious saga that focuses on the ill-fated marriage between Patrizia Reggiani (**Lada Gaga**, herself a true-crime fan) and fashion heir Maurizio Gucci (**Adam Driver**). After he files for divorce, she seeks her revenge. The film plays fast and loose with the murder plot details, but Gucci was indeed shot down outside his apartment in 1995. (Roku)

NIGHT STALKER: THE HUNT FOR A SERIAL KILLER

(2021) Fear and dread are front and center in this four-part documentary that breaks down the crimes of satanist Richard Ramirez. A serial killer known as “The Night Stalker,” he terrorized Los Angeles for 18 months until his 1985 arrest. The series also shines a light on the L.A. homicide detectives who dedicated every waking hour to tracking him down and bringing him to justice. (Netflix)

CANDY (2022) This limited series is set in the heart of Texas, where mild-mannered teacher Betty Gore (**Melanie Lynskey**) is found dead in her home with 41 ax wounds.

Who did it? Her outgoing church friend, well-to-do housewife and mom Candy Montgomery (**Jessica Biel**). Stories like this make us ask ourselves, “What am I capable of?” says Lynskey, who also stars in another show based on a true story, *Yellowjackets*, about plane crash survivors. (Hulu) —M.R.





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from page 9

home], and my family didn't know how we were going to pay for it. I took out a lot of Sallie Mae student loans in those first two years.

Your first onscreen credit was a 2004 episode of *ER*—as a teenager with a brain-damaged father. What did it mean to land that part? Oh, that was huge. I was only on set for three days, but I got to see professionals work and decide what kind of professional I wanted to be. I remember watching [star] Noah Wyle and being like, "Wow, he has so much respect from the people around him." And he really welcomed me. The hair and costume and makeup people were so sweet to me too, because they knew it was my first credit.

A decade passed between graduating Juilliard and breaking through on the big screen in 2011. Was that a scary period? I was so tired. I just kept getting told, "She's a great actress, but the directors decided to go with a model." It's the least helpful thing you could hear. For a long time I thought that maybe I should dye my hair and go blond. I played a lot of psychos and victims, which was frustrating because I'm not a victim.

When could you finally exhale? When Al Pacino cast me as Salome in an L.A. stage production of the play in 2006. I got to be a vixen, and that opened the door for me to play other characters.

You don't consider *The Help* to be your breakthrough? That's interesting to me. I loved that character, but she plays into what everyone has been trained to love in actresses: bubbly, sweet, not super intelligent, naive, blond and boobs. I see a difference when I play a character that is more threatening to that old establishment of how women need to be seen.

What are some of your favorite behind-the-scenes experiences? I love [working with] a group of people. I loved making *The Help*. We had a lot of fun on *The Martian* because we were in Budapest. *Tammy Faye* was super fun because I loved working with Andrew Garfield and the director [Michael Showalter]. It's really important for me to walk onto a set knowing I'm going to have a good time, because the work is taking me away from my family.

What do you remember most about this year's big Oscars night? It's a blur. I flew to L.A. just for the night because I was filming [the 2023 limited series] *George & Tammy* with Michael Shannon. I mean, one day I'm in the middle of singing "Stand by Your Man" in front of 300 extras, which was so stressful, and now here I am at the Oscars. But the one nice thing is that because I had been nominated for *The Help* and *Zero Dark Thirty*, people would always refer to me as an "Oscar-winning actress." It was so awkward. Now it's true!



You got your award after “The Slap” and Will Smith’s speech. How tough was it to follow that? I knew that there were certain things that I wanted to talk about in my speech. But because of what had just happened, all I was thinking was, *Don’t get emotional*. I just wanted to be calm and loving because the energy in the room was so volatile. Maybe it happened the way it was supposed to happen, because I wasn’t only thinking about myself.

You started a production company, Freckle Films, to amplify other voices. Why is this important to you? I’m just trying to use my influence in any way I can. I know there are a lot of people who don’t have the things I have. So I’m constantly trying to ask myself, “What can I do? How can I live a life that’s contributing to others?” I want to lead every day and pay back what I was given. I actually just took a 17-hour train ride to Ukraine to help support some artist friends.

Do you appreciate your accomplishments knowing that you had to persevere to get here? One hundred thousand percent. I really struggled for a long time, but I wouldn’t give it up for anything because that instilled in me that no matter what happens, I’m going to get through it. It builds character. I talk about this a lot with my friends. I want my kids to feel safe and cared for, but I don’t want them to have everything just served to them. You have to overcome difficulties in life. Everyone needs to struggle.



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COZY CHICKEN DINNER

Sauteing the chicken and vegetables in a generous amount of butter lends extra richness to this comforting recipe from **The Way Home** by Kardea Brown, host of Food Network's *Delicious Miss Brown*. The dish is an update of a childhood favorite, she says. "My mom, bless her heart, worked very long and very hard hours, so she would take some shortcuts with things," such as using canned biscuit dough for the dumplings. Brown's from-scratch recipe is a simple and delicious upgrade.



NOT MY MOMMA'S CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS

Heat a large braiser pan or Dutch oven over medium-high. Add 4 Tbsp **unsalted butter**. Sprinkle 6 **skinless, boneless chicken thighs** with **kosher salt** and freshly ground **black pepper**; add to pan. Cook 3 minutes per side or until golden. Transfer to a plate.

Add 2 Tbsp butter; 1 medium **yellow onion**, diced; 4 stalks **celery**, sliced ½ inch thick; and 4 **carrots**, sliced into ½-inch-thick rounds to pan; season with kosher salt and pepper. Cook 3 minutes or until vegetables are coated with fat and slightly golden, stirring frequently and scraping up bits that cling to bottom of pan. Sprinkle with 2 Tbsp **all-purpose flour**; stir until vegetables are coated. Add 2 cloves **garlic**, chopped; cook 30 seconds or until fragrant. Add 6 cups **chicken stock**, 1 **bay leaf** and browned

chicken along with any juices that have collected. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer, cover and cook 45 minutes or until chicken is tender and cooked through.

In a large bowl, whisk 1 cup all-purpose flour, 1 tsp **baking powder** and ½ tsp kosher salt. Using a fork, cut 2 Tbsp **vegetable shortening** into flour mixture. Slowly add ⅔ cup **buttermilk**, gently mixing to incorporate.

Remove chicken from pot; shred with 2 forks. Return chicken to pot. Using 2 spoons, sprayed with **cooking spray**, if desired, top stew with 1 Tbsp scoops of dough. Cover and simmer 15 minutes or until dumplings double in size. Remove from heat; discard bay leaf. Garnish with ½ bunch **parsley**, roughly chopped. **Serves 4.**

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Ask Marilyn

By Marilyn vos Savant

Do you think politicians should perform based on their own convictions or on the convictions of their constituents?

—Mark Edwards, Charlotte, N.C.

Personally, I believe we should elect politicians with much more wisdom and far fewer convictions, which are really unalterable opinions that are often applied without regard to the real-life consequences. Candidates should display their respect for humankind, their common sense and their perspicacity while campaigning so that, when elected, their constituents can trust them to behave with insight, knowing their representatives will do the right thing, even if it isn't always obvious to those of us outside their circle.



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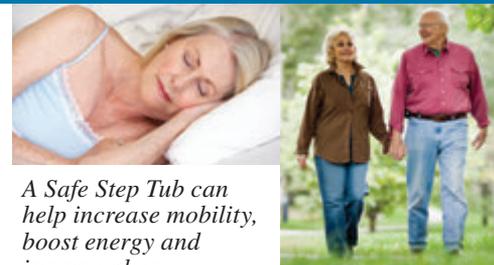
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