

Parade

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020 | PARADE.COM

Plus

TURKEY FRIED
RICE, P. 8

CLOSE UP

Actress Glenn Close on her new life in Montana, her three marriages and playing a grandma in *Hillbilly Elegy*

Personality Parade



Bryan Cranston Breaks Bad Again

In the new legal-thriller series *Your Honor* (Dec. 6 on Showtime), Cranston, 64, plays respected New Orleans judge Michael Desiato, who plots to get around the system of law and order when his teenage son gets sideways with an organized crime family. "Bryan [like his character] has integrity, moral authority and deeply held principles," says executive producer Peter Moffat. "The story asks whether a man can survive if he's required to sacrifice all three of these to protect his child."

Wedding Bells for Holly Robinson Peete

Robinson Peete returns for the fourth installment of Hallmark Channel's *Christmas in Evergreen* franchise. And this time, it's her character Michelle's turn to walk down the aisle, with her fiancé, Elliot (**Antonio Cayonne**), in *Christmas in Evergreen: Bells Are Ringing* (Dec. 5). "What's meaningful for me about these movies—and a huge part of why they resonate with fans—is the way that they delve into the lives of the characters," says the actress, 56. "We've gotten to see them all grow and evolve."



IN THE DARK: ANIMAL ADVENTURES

Avengers star **Tom Hiddleston**, 39, looks at the world in a new way as the narrator of *Earth at Night in Color* (Dec. 4 on Apple TV+), an eye-popping nature documentary series that follows animals at night, thanks to next-generation low-light cameras that are hung 130 feet high in trees, attached to small boats and put anywhere something secret and exciting is about to happen. Here's a preview of some of the nocturnal drama.



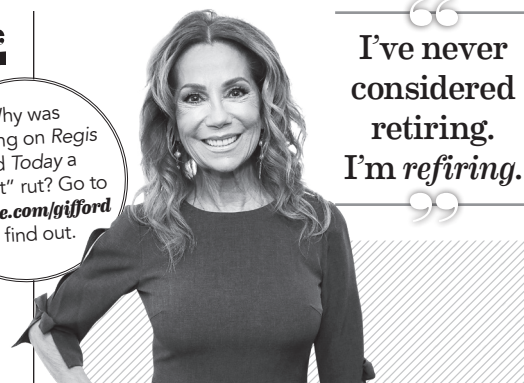
▲ Indonesia's spectral tarsiers are barely larger than a tennis ball. They tug at their ears in order to prime them for hunting. Their night vision is 100 times better than humans'.

Geckos emerge from the desert in search of mates. Their bark sounds like a cackle. ▶



◀ Cheetahs live solitary lives, but viewers will watch two cheetah brothers playing and hunting together.

Why was working on *Regis and Today* a "velvet" rut? Go to Parade.com/gifford to find out.



I've never considered retiring. I'm *refiring*.

WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

KATHIE LEE GIFFORD

The singer-songwriter, director and former *Today* co-host, 67, draws from her personal experience in her new book, *It's Never Too Late: Make the Next Act of Your Life the Best Act of Your Life* (Dec. 1). In it she shares her hard-earned wisdom and inspiration for women who are embarking upon their own major life changes.

What was your inspiration for *It's Never Too Late*? I'd been gone from *Today* for a year and a half, and [I decided] it was never too late for me to dust off the dreams I'd had as a child. I didn't want to do a how-to book; I'm just a person who's lived a long time and had a myriad of extraordinary experiences. I want to share those in a way that helps other people find strength or courage or a can-do attitude, which they've been afraid of embracing because it's scary.

How scary was it to move to Nashville by yourself? Everybody has said, "You were so brave," and I said, "No, I was dying of loneliness." There's a difference between being lonely and alone. I have been crushingly lonely at times, but I have never been alone. God is with me every nanosecond.

You also write that Frank [Gifford, her late husband] was your great love so far. Are you open to finding love again? I've always been open to love in any way it comes into my life. I can't live without love. You can breathe, you can exist, but you can't live without it. I could live without romance; I don't want to—I'm a very passionate woman. I'm open to it, but I'm not actively looking for it.

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS FOR WALTER SCOTT TO PERSONALITY@PARADE.COM



Ask Marilyn

By Marilyn vos Savant

We repeatedly hear how masks prevent the wearer from transmitting COVID-19 to others but do not protect the wearer. Can you explain?

—John Smith, Lake Wales, Fla.

This is a rampant misunderstanding. Masks (except those with exhalation valves) do work both ways. Yet masks worn by sick people are far more effective at preventing the spread of disease. Why? Say we have 100 people, one of whom is sick, and one mask is available. Who should wear the mask? Obviously, the sick person. In short, a mask worn by a sick person benefits many, but a mask worn by a healthy person benefits only one. It's also obvious that the more people wear masks, the better for all. Again, why? We don't know who may be sick.



Send questions to marilyn@parade.com

Numbrix®

Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

81	79	67	59	57
73				53
37				49
11				25
7	5	1	21	23

Visit [Parade.com/numbrix](https://www.parade.com/numbrix) for more Marilyn vos Savant Numbrix puzzles and today's solution.

11/29/20 MAGAZINE

81	80	79	78	67	66	59	58	57
74	75	76	77	68	65	60	55	56
73	72	71	70	69	64	61	54	53
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37	36	35	34	43	44	45	50	49
12	13	14	33	32	31	46	47	48
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BLUEBERRY

81		79		67		59		57
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BRADENTON HERALD, CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE, DAILY COMMERCIAL, HERALD-TRIBUNE, MIAMI HERALD, NAPLES DAILY NEWS/THE DAILY NEWS, NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS, OCALA STAR BANNER, PANAMA CITY NEWS-HERALD, PANAMA CITY WEEKLIES, SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS, SUWANNEE DEMOCRAT, TAMPA BAY TIMES, THE DAYTONA BEACH SUNDAY NEWS-JOURNAL, THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION, THE GAINESVILLE SUN, THE LEDGER, THE PALM BEACH POST, THE ST. AUGUSTINE RECORD, THE TAMPA TRIBUNE, THE VILLAGES DAILY SUN

Parade Picks

Visit PARADE.COM/PICKS for more

Binge That, GIVE THIS!

Inspired by your favorite flicks, binges and characters, these gifts have a streaming twist. —Megan O'Neill Melle



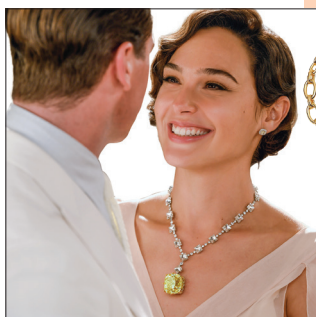
Outlander

Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish (good mates and stars of Starz' *Outlander*) travel Scotland via motorbikes, boats, kayaks, bicycles and their faithful camper van to tell a story of the people, history and culture that make up their homeland in *Clanlands: Whisky, Warfare, and a Scottish Adventure Like No Other* (Mobius). \$27



Emily in Paris

Bucket hats, berets and that signature snapshot phone case—get the look of new-to-Paris American marketing exec Emily (Lily Collins) from the bingeable Netflix series with a replica **Classic Camera Case 2.0** and this **Kooreloo Petite Pillow Tweed Shoulder Bag**. \$65, casetify.com and \$395, neimanmarcus.com



Death on the Nile

The Agatha Christie classic is coming to the big screen in 2021! To amplify the 1930s glam, Tiffany's re-created its 128-carat yellow diamond (worn previously by Audrey Hepburn and Lady Gaga) for a main role in **Gal Gadot's** storyline. For your own glam look with a touch of the Nile: the **Gold Ridge Pyramid Chain Lariat Necklace**. \$485, missoma.com



Palm Springs

Grab your "flippy-floppies" and this **Tibetan Red Hawaiian Christmas 2020 Shirt** and join Andy Samberg and Cristin Milioti in their desert oasis time warp in *Palm Springs* (Hulu). \$108, reyn Spooner.com



Mrs. America

If **Cate Blanchett's** role as elite conservative Phyllis Schlafly in the Hulu series had you longing for a neck scarf comeback, you're in luck. Follow suit with the **Floral Patch Silk Square** or **Patch Plaid Silk Square**. \$99 and \$44, echonewyork.com

continued on page 6



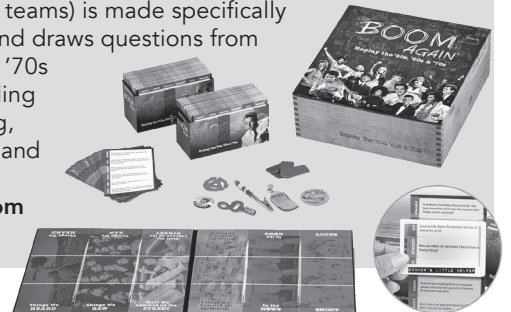
Tiger King

Tap your inner **Joe Exotic** (from the Netflix documentary series) with these flashy big-cat-breeder-approved picks: a **Tiger Bath Mat**, cozy leopard-print **Smile Face Sport Crew Socks** and the snake-print **Jarli Pointy Ankle Boot**. \$49 and \$10, urbanoutfitters.com; \$219, marcfisherfootwear.com



Vintage TV

If you've been stuck in a quarantine time machine, finding comfort in *I Love Lucy* or *Happy Days* reruns, then **Boom Again** might be for you! This trivia game (played by two people or two teams) is made specifically for boomers and draws questions from '50s, '60s and '70s culture, including TV, advertising, movies, music and more. \$45, boomagain.com



Turkey Fried Rice

Parade chef **Jon Ashton** spins leftover Thanksgiving turkey into this delicious fried rice. The crispy fried garlic and ginger really take the flavor over the top.

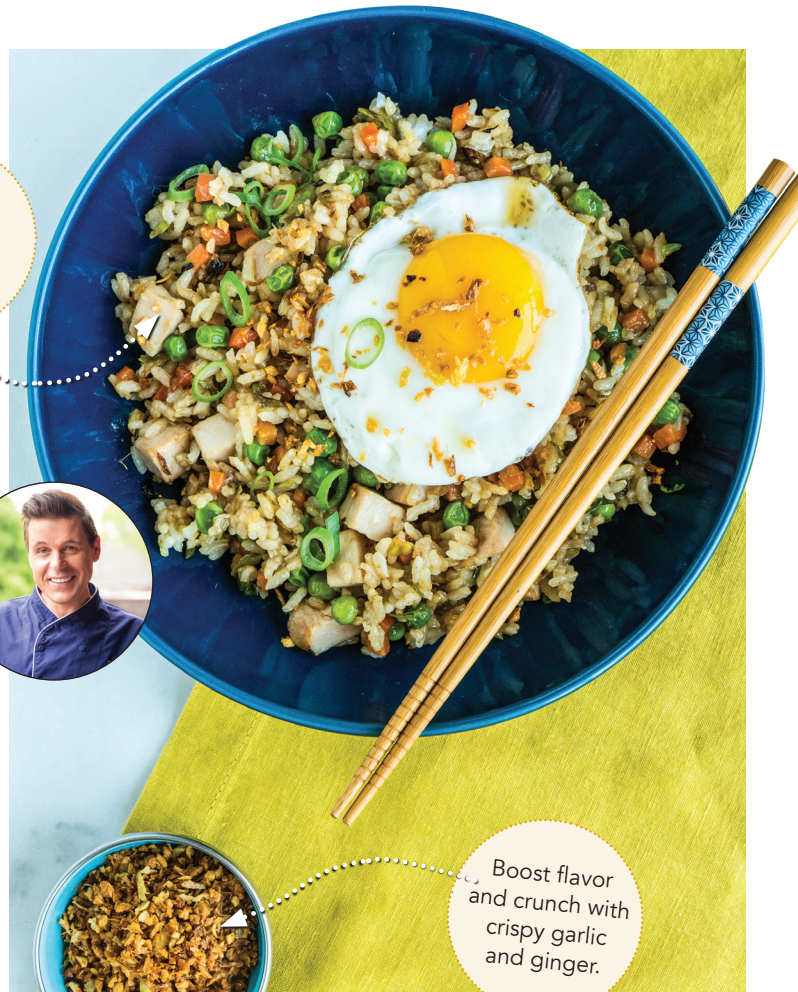
TURKEY FRIED RICE WITH FRIED EGG

- 2 Tbsp oyster sauce
- 2 Tbsp soy sauce
- ½ tsp ground white pepper
- 5 Tbsp vegetable oil, divided
- 3 Tbsp minced garlic (about 9 cloves)
- 3 Tbsp minced ginger (about 1 [2-inch] piece)
Salt, to taste
- 1 bunch green onions, thinly sliced
- 2 cups diced roasted turkey
- 1 (12-oz) pkg frozen peas and carrots, thawed and patted dry
- 4 cups cooked rice, chilled
- 4 large eggs
- 2 tsp sesame oil

1. In a small bowl, combine oyster sauce, soy sauce and white pepper; set aside.

2. In a large skillet or wok, heat ¼ cup vegetable oil over medium-high. Add garlic and ginger. Stir-fry 2–3 minutes or until golden and crisp (do not burn). Remove pan from heat. With a slotted spoon, transfer garlic and ginger to a paper-towel-lined plate, leaving oil behind in pan. Lightly salt garlic and ginger.

Try this with cooked chicken or shrimp!



Boost flavor and crunch with crispy garlic and ginger.



3. Return pan to medium heat. Set aside 2 Tbsp green onions for garnish. Add remaining green onions to pan. Cook 2–3 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until very tender. Season lightly with salt.
4. Raise heat to medium-high; add turkey, peas and carrots. Cook 2 minutes. Add rice, stirring well; cook until heated through. Stir in oyster sauce mixture. Taste and adjust seasoning with soy sauce, salt and/or pepper. Keep warm.
5. In a large nonstick skillet over medium-high, heat remaining 1 Tbsp vegetable oil. Add eggs. Cook 3 minutes or until edges are set and yolk is still soft.
6. Divide rice mixture among 4 bowls. Top each with 1 egg and ½ tsp sesame oil. Garnish with reserved green onions and crispy garlic and ginger.

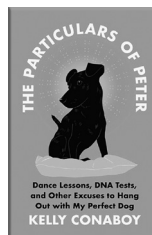
Serves 4.

Visit [Parade.com/gobble](https://www.parade.com/gobble) for four tasty twists on turkey sandwiches.

What to Read This Month

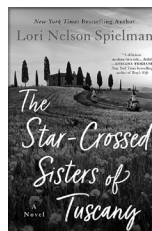
Missing the election excitement? These books deliver blackmail schemes, gripping thrills and *Succession*-like family drama. —Megan O'Neill Melle

For anyone in need of a good laugh, Kelly Conaboy's ***The Particulars of Peter: Dance Lessons, DNA Tests, and Other Excuses to Hang Out With My Perfect Dog***



(Grand Central Publishing, Dec. 8) chronicles life with her Labrador-terrier mix alongside hilarious observations and reporting on dog behaviorists, dog dancers, ghost chasers and more. **\$27**

If the cobblestone streets of Florence aren't on your holiday itinerary, enjoy some armchair travel to the Italian countryside in Lori Nelson Spielman's ***The Star-Crossed Sisters of Tuscany*** (Berkley), where three women bound by a family curse will learn of love, second chances and self-discovery. **\$16**



After an unexpected attack left Layla fighting for her life, she's no longer the woman her boyfriend loved. In ***Layla*** (Montlake, Dec. 8) by Colleen Hoover, an isolated B&B, a strange love triangle and some paranormal twists take this contemporary romance on a bizarre turn. **\$15**



A Hollywood con artist makes a living blackmailing lecherous men in ***The Lady Upstairs*** (Putnam) by Halley Sutton, a witty and feminist

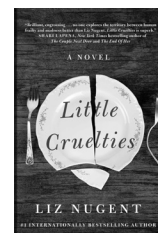
modern-day noir that tells a chilling story of female revenge. **\$16**



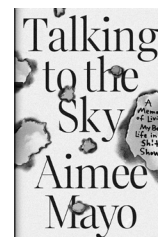
In ***Big Girl, Small Town*** (Algonquin, Dec. 1), Irish newcomer Michelle Gallen debuts with a hysterically honest and moving portrait of a young girl on the autism spectrum, her irresponsible mother and the residents of a small Irish village just after the Troubles. **\$17**



"All three of the Drumm brothers were at the funeral, although one of us was in a coffin." The first line in ***Little Cruelties*** (Scout Press) by Liz Nugent will reel you into a dysfunctional family whose history of playing dangerous games is about to get sinister. **\$28**



"All my greatest gifts have come wrapped in ribbons of pain," writes award-winning country songwriter Aimee Mayo (Tim McGraw, Carrie Underwood and Blake Shelton have all recorded her songs), whose emotional memoir ***Talking to the Sky: A Memoir of Living Your Best Life in a S--t Show*** is both tragic and triumphantly hilarious. **\$35**



Stay Healthy



GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR LUNGS

Early cancer detection and treatment advances are extending lives. Plus, how to safeguard your lungs during COVID-19. *By Sheryl Kraft*

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death of men and women in the U.S. In 2020 alone, an estimated 1.8 million cases will be diagnosed, claiming the lives of about 600,000 people.

Though lung cancer is challenging to treat, the news is not all grim, says James Stevenson, M.D., a medical oncologist at Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center. A brand-new study from researchers at the National Cancer Institute reveals a sharp and significant drop in mortality rates in the last few years for the most common type of lung cancer, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), which accounts for 76 percent of lung cancers.

A big factor in the decline? Smoking is at an all-time low. But there's more: "New advances in early detection and treatment are giving people new hope and extending lives," Stevenson says.

SCREENING

Low-dose computed tomography (LDCT), which uses less radiation than a traditional chest CT, is the only recommended screening test for lung cancer and has been found to reduce the risk of death by 20 percent.

"Annual screening for high-risk individuals has become an accepted practice and should be considered as routine as a woman getting a mammogram," says Stevenson. "The screening is covered by many insurers, and Medicare for those who are eligible." Who falls into the "high-risk" category? Heavy smokers or former smokers (those who have quit in the past 15 years) who smoked an average of one pack of cigarettes a day for 30 years.

PREVENTION

Although it has been many years since the association between cigarette smoking

and lung cancer was discovered, smoking is still the number one risk for lung cancer, responsible for between 80 and 90 percent of lung cancer deaths. (Pipes and cigars also increase the risk.)

A smoker is 15 to 30 times more likely to get or die from lung cancer compared with a nonsmoker—and even a few cigarettes a day ups risk.

On the positive side, quitting at any age can lower lung cancer risks. Within minutes of your last puff, your body rebounds with a lower heart rate and blood pressure.

While you can't lower every risk factor—like having a family history of lung cancer—you can reduce your exposure to air pollution, radiation and secondhand smoke and avoid environmental toxins like radon and asbestos. And though it's not entirely clear that eating a healthy diet and being physically active can decrease risk, it certainly can't hurt your general health; nor can masking up to protect against COVID-19 and seasonal flu.

TREATMENT

There was a time when the only options to treat lung cancer were radiation, chemotherapy, surgery or a combination. Today, breakthrough advances have reduced the number of lung cancer deaths and helped people survive disease-free for longer periods of time. Here are two of them:

► **Immunotherapy (Biologic Therapy)** Cancer cells are skillful at evading the immune system's natural ability to eradicate foreign invaders. But immunotherapy is changing all that: It can outsmart out-of-control cancer cells by powering up the body's immune system to seek out and destroy them.

The therapy, heralded in 2016 and 2017 as the "Advance of the Year" by the American

Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), is used alone or in combination with other treatments and is a game-changer: "We've seen things we wouldn't even have thought possible five years ago," says Stevenson. "Many advanced-stage lung cancer patients are enjoying longer remissions or even cures—results almost never seen in the past."

► **Targeted Therapy** This class of drugs is for people with specific gene or protein mutations. The therapy shuts off signals the mutation is sending to cause the cancer to grow. These abnormalities can be found through biomarker testing, which examines changes in the tumor's DNA. "For these cancers, targeted therapies can be more effective than chemotherapy or immunotherapy, allowing for a more personalized approach," says Stevenson.

HEALTHY LUNGS DURING COVID

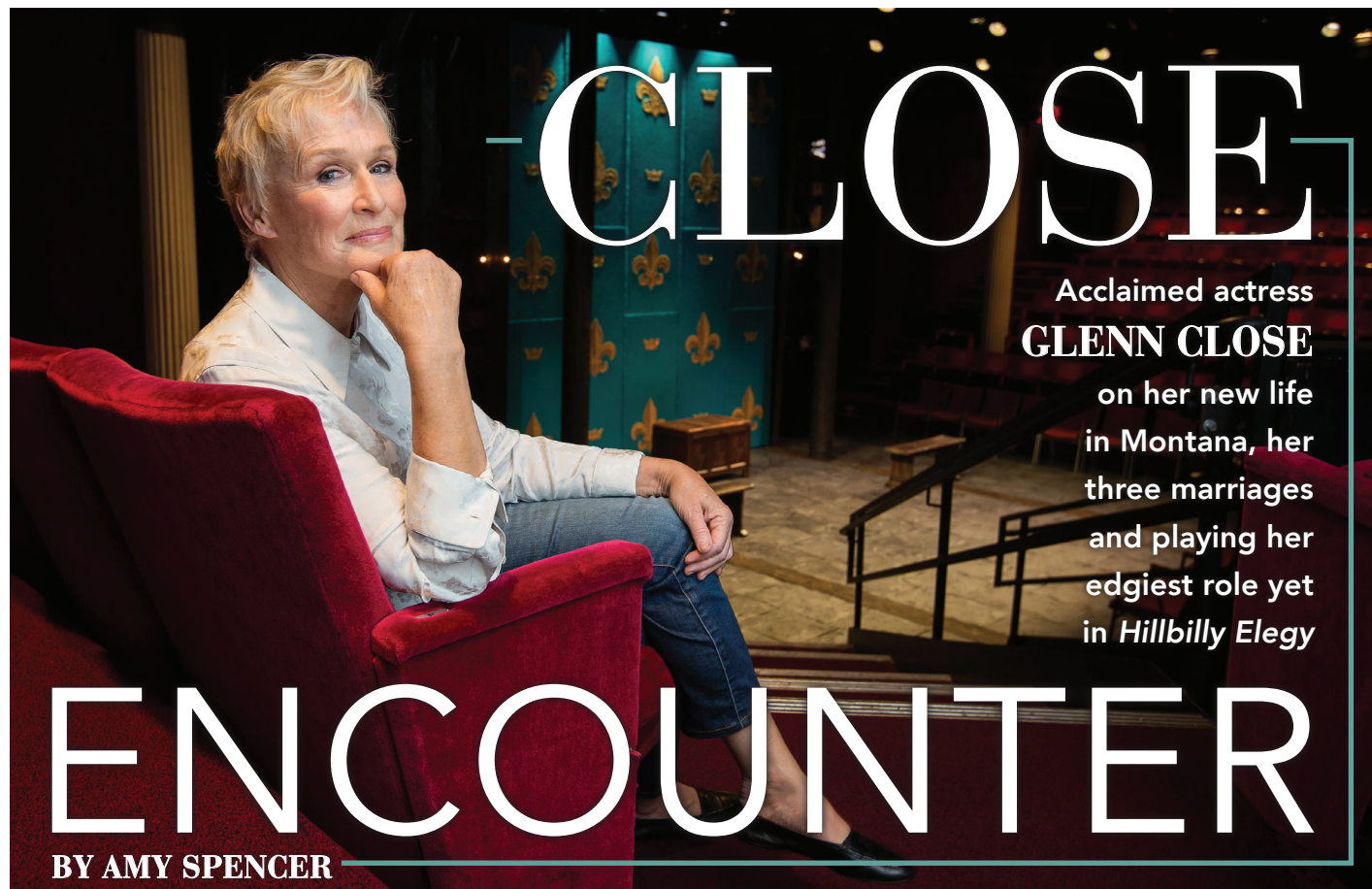
Not just another infection that will pass, COVID-19 can wreak real lasting havoc on lungs, says Cleveland Clinic lung pathologist Sanjay Mukhopadhyay, M.D. The virus can cause a "dangerous and potentially fatal" condition known as acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), he says. Symptoms include sudden breathlessness, rapid breathing, dizziness, rapid heart rate and excessive sweating. Call a doctor immediately if you experience this. And if you have lung issues (or even if you don't), follow these common-sense practices: Mask up, avoid sick people and secondhand smoke and get a healthy amount of sleep.

Visit [Parade.com/lungs](https://www.parade.com/lungs) for the best foods to eat for healthy lungs.

Glenn Close is about to make history—at least a mini version of it. “This is the first time I’ve been in one place long enough to see the changing of the seasons for one full year,” says the actress of stage, movies and TV, who’s talking to *Parade* on Zoom from her new home base in Bozeman, Mont. She moved there last December to be near her three siblings, who play an integral role in Close’s new routines in this time of COVID-19.

Every morning, for instance, after Close, 73, feeds her 5-year-old Havanese pup, Pippi, she walks the dog across the yard to her sister Jessie’s home, typically wearing an oversize T-shirt and some old boxer shorts. “I take my cup that has a little bit of half-and-half and sweetener in it, and I fill up my coffee over at her house,” she says. “And we just chat and laugh at the dogs, and that’s pretty much the beginning of my day.” Today Close’s T-shirt reads “Human-Kind/Be Both,” and she’s pulled on a pair of L.L. Bean camping pants as she settles in by a wall of books and a stuffed chair where Pippi sleeps on a pillow. “Nobody dresses up in Bozeman,” she says. “I don’t know what I’ll do with the wardrobe that I brought out here that’s in storage.”

That wardrobe is a packed-away testimony to the acting career that kept Close moving so much over the past four decades, with roles on Broadway in *Sunset Boulevard* and *The Real Thing*; in movies including *Fatal Attraction*, *The Big Chill*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Reversal of Fortune*, *101 Dalmatians* and *The Wife*; and five seasons on television’s critically acclaimed *Damages*. Now she’s forging ahead into new territory, playing sharp-tongued, Kentucky-bred grandmother Mamaw in the film version of author J.D. Vance’s best-selling memoir *Hillbilly*



BY AMY SPENCER

CLOSE

Acclaimed actress
GLENN CLOSE
on her new life
in Montana, her
three marriages
and playing her
edgiest role yet
in *Hillbilly Elegy*

ENCOUNTER

— I DON'T DO IT TO GET AN AWARD. YOU HAVE TO FIND JOY IN WHAT YOU DO.

able when she first appears onscreen, with frizzy graying hair, wearing baggy clothes and a pair of huge '80s eyeglasses and dangling a cigarette in her hand. For the part, she donned a wig and padding, and makeup artistry changed the shape of her nose and enlarged her ears. After the first hair-and-makeup test, “I walked on the set, and nobody knew it was me,” says Close, delighted.

“Mamaw was totally different from anything I’ve ever played,” she says—a woman whose Appalachian roots were a far cry from Close’s own.

Elegy, which premiered on Netflix this month.

Close read the book—in which Vance, a graduate of Yale Law School, reflects on his hometown, his family history, his Appalachian roots and the American dream—when it came out in 2016, and she was immediately drawn to the gruff, loyal matriarch of the story; it was so distant from any role she’d done before.

Oscar-winning director Ron Howard’s film toggles between eras: the present day, in which Vance (Gabriel Basso) travels back to Middletown, Ohio, to help his sister (Haley Bennett) and drug-addicted mother (Amy Adams); and Vance’s youth, in which Mamaw plays an integral role in raising him. Close is nearly unrecogniz-

able when she first appears onscreen, with frizzy graying hair, wearing baggy clothes and a pair of huge '80s eyeglasses and dangling a cigarette in her hand. For the part, she donned a wig and padding, and makeup artistry changed the shape of her nose and enlarged her ears. After the first hair-and-makeup test, “I walked on the set, and nobody knew it was me,” says Close, delighted.

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‘WEIRD UPBRINGING’ Close was born in Greenwich, Conn. Her mother, Bettine, was a socialite and philanthropist, and her father, William, was a doctor. When she was 7, her parents became involved with the Moral Re-Armament religious group—an organization that Close has referred to as “cult-like”—and her family relocated to Africa and then Switzerland, where Close attended boarding school. “I had a weird upbringing,” she says. She met her first husband, a musician, in the group. “I think that was basically an arranged marriage, actually,” she says, but “that’s a whole

other story.” That first marriage ended in an early divorce and, at age 22, Close went off to Virginia’s William & Mary, where “I really kind of started being myself, coming alive.”

Close had her first jobs in Virginia, working at the information desk at Colonial Williamsburg and at a Ramada Inn as “the world’s worst cocktail waitress.” When the hotel opened a nightclub, she was hired as the maître d’, “which was a huge lesson in how nasty people can be,” she says. All of it was an education in life, alongside her studies in theater and anthropology. “I’m fascinated by evolution,” she explains of her anthro minor, “by why we are the way we are.” Close also found the subject matter useful when she discovered what she truly cared about: acting.

She was trained by theater professor Howard Scammon, who sensed the seriousness of her passion and became a mentor. Close wistfully remembers the day she was about to launch her professional career onstage in *Love for Love* at New York’s Helen Hayes Theatre. It was the fall after she graduated, and she was the understudy for each of the leads in three plays, with small parts in each one. Scammon showed up just to watch her “go in the stage door.”

Close’s career advanced quickly after that



Close’s latest role is “Mamaw” in the new Netflix movie *Hillbilly Elegy*.

important “entrance.” Six years later, she received her first Tony nomination, for 1980’s *Barnum* on Broadway, and two years after that, an Academy Award nomination for *The World According to Garp*, her very first theatrical film role. But she says she was never good at auditioning. She recalls trying

continued on page 22

ROLE CALL

THE MANY MOVIE MOODS—AND OSCAR NOMINATIONS—OF GLENN CLOSE



1 *The World According to Garp* (1982) She earned her first Oscar nom for her debut movie role as a former WWII nurse and mother to author Garp (Robin Williams).

2 *The Big Chill* (1983) Close’s character reunites with old college friends after a member of their pack commits suicide.

3 *The Natural* (1984) She’s Iris, the girlfriend of Roy Hobbs (Robert Redford), the middle-aged baseball superstar who hits his most memorable home run with her sitting in the stands.

4 *Fatal Attraction* (1987) A fling between a married lawyer (Michael Douglas) and Close’s Alex poses a threat to his family—and pet bunnies everywhere.



5 *Dangerous Liaisons* (1988) Romance and jealousy play out in France’s royal court as Close’s Marquise de Merteuil spars with the Vicomte de Valmont (John Malkovich)

6 *Albert Nobbs* (2011) In this British drama, Close stars as a woman masquerading as a male butler.

7 *The Wife* (2018) She stars alongside Jonathan Pryce and Christian Slater as the spouse of a Nobel Prize-winning novelist.

—Dillon Dodson



from page 17

out for off-Broadway's *The Singular Life of Albert Nobbs*. "I did so badly, I stopped and said, 'You know what? I'm boring myself, so I must be boring you. I'm just gonna go home.'" It was apparently the most interesting thing that had happened to the casting agents all day, so they called her back in—and she got the part, plus an Obie Award for her performance, yet another in a long line of accolades.

In total, Close has won three Tony Awards, a trio of Emmys and last year reached the record as the female with the most Oscar nominations (seven) for acting without a single win. Now, she jokes, "I'd rather keep the record going, you know? I guess if it continues too much longer, I'll kind of say, 'Well, f--- you!'" She laughs. "No, I don't do it to get an award. You have to find joy in what you do."

CLOSE CHARACTERS

After having been married three times, Close is currently single. Following her early divorce, she had a three-year marriage to businessman James Marlas; a four-year relationship with producer John Starke, with whom she had daughter Annie Starke, now 32; and a nine-year marriage to venture capitalist David Shaw. "It's not a good mix," says Close, reflecting on her relationships with partners who weren't connected to show busi-

ness. "To stay an artist, you have to be with people who understand that," particularly, she says, given her strange and difficult childhood. "It really is like two different languages."

Her most important relationship is with her daughter, who was raised on movie sets and is now an actress herself. Starke was just 7 weeks old when Close brought her on location in France for *Dangerous Liaisons*. More recently, Starke played the young version of Close's character in *The Wife*, and she has a recurring role in the new Netflix series *Ratched*. But Close says she doesn't offer any acting advice—despite having played so many memorable roles in her storied career.

The most memorable of those? Stepping into faded silent-film star Norma Desmond's shoes on Broadway in *Sunset Boulevard*, the 1990s musical based on the classic 1950s film, and playing the vengeful Alex Forrest in *Fatal Attraction*. The actress felt deep empathy for the character of Alex, whose behavior takes a desperate, psychopathic



Daughter Annie is also an actress, appearing in the Netflix series *Ratched*.

turn when her torrid affair with a married man (Michael Douglas) comes to an end. Close felt like there were reasons for Alex's behavior that the movie didn't explore—that she'd been sexually abused as a young girl. "She remains one of the great villains of the 20th century," says Close of the character, "but I will *never* think of her as a villain. She was a woman who needed help."

That distinction is especially meaningful for Close, whose sister Jessie was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and whose nephew has schizoaffective disorder. "The stigma [they experienced] was just as bad as their chronic illness," she says of her family's dealings with mental health issues, which led Close and her sister to co-found the nonprofit organization Bring Change 2 Mind. Now celebrat-

ing its 10th year, the organization focuses on creating peer-to-peer clubs for high school students where they can talk openly in a stigma-free zone and pushes for hospitals to create in-patient psychiatric facilities.

The future certainly holds more characters for Close to play. She was ready to begin a new TV series but, like so many things this year, it was put on hold. She's crossing her fingers that the film version of *Sunset Boulevard* will be greenlit soon so she can reprise

her role as Norma Desmond. And she'll continue spending her time with her brother, her two sisters and her dog, Pip, going for long walks and losing herself in nature, her ultimate comfort zone.

She still believes that having a partner is a great gift, that "it'd be wonderful to have somebody to, you know, look at the sunset with and do stuff with." But right now, she's content—or at least hesitant to wade back into those emotional waters. "I must say, at this point in my life, I don't want to be invaded in certain ways," she says. "I feel great about myself."

So she'll spend the winter contentedly watching those seasons come full circle, at home, surrounded by those people and things closest to her. She'll celebrate just what *Hillbilly Elegy* does—and what she hopes viewers will connect with most of all when they see the film. "It comes down to family," she says. "The ferocity of familial love."

Visit Parade.com/close for 35 throwback photos of the actress through the years.

CLOSE-UP

READING "Right now I'm reading James Baldwin's *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, and I've been reading Toni Morrison, [Ibram X. Kendi's] *How to Be an Antiracist* and Isabelle Wilkerson's *Caste*, because I'm trying to really assimilate, as best I can, to what it's been like to be in a Black body in this country."

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD BOOK "Probably *The Black Stallion*. And we were brought up on *Little House on the Prairie*."



DOUGHNUT OR BAGEL "I'd probably eat a **bagel**—out of guilt because I shouldn't eat a doughnut."

FAVORITE GADGET "Needle-nose pliers, just because they're so good for everything. I'm pretty good at fixing toilets; I've been gluing my gate. I mean, I'm not that handy, but it's fun. I can rewire a lamp."



CHILDHOOD TOY I STILL HAVE "My favorite toy for a long time when I was little was a **Noah's Ark**, and I have one little wooden animal left from that. He's up in my kind of special place in my bedroom."

SECRET TALENT "I can make a really good 'baby cry.' It was the first thing I had to do for my first job as an understudy. You want to hear my baby cry?" She cries—eerily just like a baby! "I'm also really good at imitating horses."

SONGS I LOVE "I was raised on Rodgers and Hammerstein, so anything from *South Pacific*."

WHAT SCARES ME "Sadism."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MICHAEL TRAN/PHILMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES; ISTOCK (2)

KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES

DOGS OR CATS "I love both, actually. We had three cats who were bred by Chris Walken and his wife. But I have **Pippi**. He hiked up about 8,000 feet the other day. And he's been on the Broadway stage [in the 2017 revival of *Sunset Boulevard*]."