

Parade

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021 | PARADE.COM

PLUS

The stories
behind holiday
songs, p. 4

TIM & FAITH GO WEST

The country
music legends
join the wagon
train in the
Yellowstone
prequel, 1883

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WALTER SCOTT'S

Personality Parade

WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

LILY RABE

The *American Horror Story* and *The Undoing* star heads back to the '70s in director George Clooney's *The Tender Bar* (in theaters Dec. 17). Rabe, 39, plays a single mom in the coming-of-age story in which her bartender brother (Ben Affleck) and the patrons of his Long Island tavern do their best to help raise her son, J.R. (played by different actors at various ages and stages).



What do you hope viewers take from *The Tender Bar*? It's such a delicate story told with so much restraint, and so much ease. It's done with such a light touch. There's nothing that's ever drilled into the audience's head about what you're supposed to feel. I think every person will have a slightly different and completely personal experience.

J.R.'s mother has a fierce love for him, but what else drives her? She has this wonderful willfulness and optimism. She says early in the film, "Tomorrow is another day." That's something she says to J.R. all the time. It's like a refrain for him and for her. She wants to keep marching forward and she wants things to get better.

What is George Clooney like as a director? Such an incredible leader. He creates this world both in the film and on the set that is so secure and confident that everyone knows their footing. You know that the ground beneath you is safe because George has built the foundation.

What was it like working with Ben Affleck? Go to Parade.com/rabe to find out.

You just finished the 10th season of *American Horror Story*. What is it like to reach that milestone?

I can't believe it. It's such a wonderful job because it's not like being on another show for 10 seasons where you're playing the same role; each season is its own thing. It became the gift that kept on giving because I got to come back and come back and come back.



BRADLEY COOPER

The psychological thriller *Nightmare Alley* (in theaters Dec. 17) examines the underbelly of 1940s society through the story of a charismatic carnival worker, Stanton Carlisle (Cooper), who hooks up with a psychiatrist (Cate Blanchett) to grift the wealthy elite of New York. Here are some fun facts about Cooper, 46, nominated for eight Oscars, including Best Actor for *A Star Is Born*, *Silver Linings Playbook* and *American Hustle*.

First television credit: In 1999, he was "Jake the downtown smoker" on *Sex and the City*.

▶ Cooper played Will Tippin in the J.J. Abrams spy series *Alias* for three seasons, starting in 2001. He has said that co-star **Jennifer Garner** was one of the first people he met in L.A.



In *A Star Is Born* (2018), Cooper's real-life labradoodle, Charlie, played the dog adopted by Jackson and Ally (Lady Gaga).

▶ He auditioned to play the title role in *Green Lantern* (2011) but lost out to **Ryan Reynolds**.



In 2006, Cooper appeared on Broadway with Paul Rudd and Julia Roberts in *Three Days of Rain*.

◀ Cooper became a father at age 42 when his now ex-girlfriend, actress **Irina Shayk**, gave birth to their daughter, **Lea de Seine Shayk Cooper**, in March 2017.



MAHERSHALA ALI'S SWAN SONG

Swan Song (Dec. 17 on Apple TV+), a genre-bending drama set in the near future, explores how much someone is willing to sacrifice to make a happier life for loved ones. Lead star Ali plays Cameron, a husband and father diagnosed with a terminal illness. A scientist (Glenn Close) presents him with an alternative solution to spare his family from grief. "He has to keep a big secret to himself and feels isolated and doesn't have a lot of outlets for processing his emotions with people," says Ali, 47, who received Oscars for his roles in *Green Book* and *Moonlight*. The film also stars Awkwafina and Naomi Harris.



ZENDAYA & SPIDER-MAN

Zendaya, who has been playing Spider-Man's girlfriend, MJ, since she was 19, returns for *Spider-Man: No Way Home* (in theaters Dec. 17). In the third film starring **Tom Holland** as the web-slinging superhero, his personal life gets complicated when his identity is revealed, causing him to turn to Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) for help. "Everybody around him, who cares about him and loves him, gets put into danger," says Zendaya, 25. "As soon as they get to be in love, everything else starts to crumble."



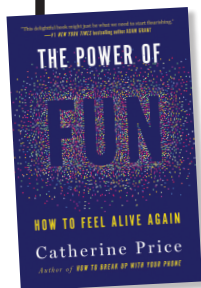
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A RECIPE
FOR

MORE FUN



Sometimes what's supposed to be the jolliest time of the year turns into a mad rush that's not so fun. Science journalist **Catherine Price**, author of *The Power of Fun: How to Feel Alive Again* (The Dial Press, Dec. 21), \$27, has the antidote for that: Put down your attention-seeking phones, apps and other

media and focus on real fun, what she calls "the confluence of playfulness, connection and flow." Here's her advice for finding more "true fun" in your daily life. —*Dillon Dodson*

GET MOVING Physical movement and/or being outdoors contribute to fun, Price's research confirms. Try activities such as biking or swing dancing or even cleaning the house to your favorite music. Or simply take a walk outside and breathe some fresh air.

LOOK FOR JOY Take note of what makes you happy. "Calling out those tiny moments and giving them weight really boosts my mood," Price says. "I encourage people to keep a journal to note these moments throughout your day."

CONNECT COVID-induced quarantine has increased feelings of isolation, but (safe) human connection will always be important. "In my own research, when people described past experiences of true fun, the vast majority involved other people, even for self-described introverts," Price says.

AND DISCONNECT She calls binge-watching and social media interaction "fake fun." Those activities "are designed to be very compelling and make you want to consume it in excess, but it makes you feel worse afterwards," she says. Recognize fake fun and start to replace it with real-life interaction or other more tangible things that give you joy.

DECOUPLE MONEY FROM TIME "We've been conditioned to believe that any use of time that does not result in being financially compensated is not good." But when expensive products are marketed to us as enjoyable, how much more do we work to pay for them? "Fun actually boosts our productivity because it lets us take a break. It's much more restorative than other things we do with our leisure time. But it should be its own reward."

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Go to Parade.com/fun for more fun-finding tips.

What America Eats

Retro

HOLIDAY HAM



This old-school twice-baked ham, from the new cookbook *Tasty Over the Top*, is fun to make and serve. You can bake the ham a day ahead, cool and refrigerate. Then swaddle it in pastry and bake again.

PASTRY-WRAPPED HOLIDAY HAM WITH CIDER GLAZE

Arrange rack in center of oven; preheat oven to 350°F. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper.

In a small bowl, whisk together ¼ cup packed **light brown sugar** and ¼ cup **Dijon mustard** until combined.

Score top of 1 (1½- to 2-lb) **smoked boneless ham** diagonally in one direction, making cuts about 1 inch apart and ¼ inch deep; then score diagonally in opposite direction. Brush ham all over with mustard mixture. Set ham on prepared baking sheet. Bake 20–30 minutes or until golden brown and an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part registers 160°F.

On a clean work surface, spread 1 (8-oz) tube **crescent roll dough** as one intact sheet. Remove ham from oven. Use tongs to transfer ham to center of dough. Wrap dough around ham to cover; brush with 1 **large egg**, beaten. Return ham to oven. Bake 20 minutes or until pastry crust is golden brown and flaky.

Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan over medium-high, combine 1 cup **apple cider**, ⅓ cup **apple cider vinegar**, ⅓ cup **honey**, 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard and 1 tsp **chili powder**. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; simmer 10 minutes or until sauce is slightly reduced and thickened.

Transfer ham to a serving platter. Set a **pineapple ring** on surface of ham. Hold a **maraschino cherry** in center of ring; secure with a toothpick to hold in place. Repeat to cover ham. Serve with cider glaze. **Serves 4.**

Visit Parade.com/cheeseball for a classic bacon-cheddar cheese ball appetizer recipe.

WELCOME TO 1883

TIM & FAITH GO WEST

Country music couple Tim McGraw and Faith Hill on starring in the prequel to TV's *Yellowstone* and keeping the spice in their marriage.

BY MARA REINSTEIN

The phrase “pillow talk” takes on new meaning when you and your spouse have just spent the day outside in blustery Montana dressed in 19th-century garb filming a highly dramatic scene for one of this year’s most anticipated TV series.

“We were in bed last night and talked [about the scene] for two hours,” Tim McGraw says. “I told Faith, ‘This is incredible. How many married couples ever get a chance to do what we’re doing right now?’”

Chalk it up to another milestone for McGraw and Faith Hill, the married country music power duo of 25 years and parents of three daughters. They’ve amassed eight Grammys (five for her; three for him), 14 Country Music Association (CMA) Awards and have matching stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Now they’re starring in the sprawling new Western series *1883* (premiering Dec. 19 on Paramount+). A prequel to the Emmy-nominated saga *Yellowstone*, it centers on McGraw and Hill’s characters, James and Margaret Dutton—the ancestors of Kevin Costner’s present-day patriarchal rancher baron, John—as they make their way westward ho across the Great Plains via wagons in search of land and freedom. (Sam Elliott, Isabel May and Billy Bob Thornton round out the ensemble.) “The entire storytelling process is so authentic,” says Hill. “It feels like we’re living that life and actually in 1883.”

On this evening in November 2021, Hill and McGraw, both 54, are Zooming in separately from different locations: She’s in her trailer with dirt still caked on her face and fake blood under her fingernails; he’s eagerly waiting her return in the nearby cast lodge. It’s been another long rewarding day. “When I watch him, I’m in awe,” she says. He raves of Hill, “We were face to face and staring into each other’s eyes, and I walked away going, ‘Damn, my wife is good.’”

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WELCOME TO THE RANCH

Centering on the Dutton family’s fight for control of their expansive ranch, *Yellowstone* had been on McGraw’s radar from its very first episode. “I liked that it was a mix of *Game of Thrones* and *The Godfather*,” he says.

So when the pair received writer-director Taylor Sheridan’s pilot script, they realized it was an offer they couldn’t refuse. “We were like, ‘We have to go on this adventure together,’” McGraw says. Hill draws on a musical analogy: “It begins with a song. If the song is right, then you don’t give it a second thought, because writing is a real craft that should be respected. We read the material and we were like, ‘How can we not do it?’”

Hill and McGraw uprooted from their home in Nashville in August to begin production. Though living side by side in Texas and Montana, they don’t run lines or ride to the set together. “We want to see what the other brings to the scene in the moment, so it’s always a surprise,” Hill says.

Filming 10 hour-long episodes, on location, in wintry conditions has been challenging. Hill says cast members blow on their hands to keep warm with “snot running down our noses.” Adds McGraw, “You really begin to realize that people sacrificed everything on these wagon trains. Human nature is revealed.”

The couple was even on the clock on Oct. 6—their 25th wedding anniversary—on location in Texas. They would not have had it any other way: “What

more could you ask for? We’re working together on our 25th anniversary on an incredible show with great people,” Hill says. Besides, their daughters, Grace, 24, Maggie, 23, and Audrey, 20, flew in to celebrate.

MARRIAGE IN THE STARS

Although Hill and McGraw don’t make a habit of overthinking their relationship—“We love one another and that’s just part of our life,” Hill says—they did know early on that they were destined to be together. Both are products of blue-collar

families in the Deep South—or, as Hill puts it, “We have very, very, very similar humble beginnings.” Hill, born Audrey Faith Perry, was adopted as an infant and grew up in Star, Miss.; McGraw is a Louisiana native and was raised by his waitress mom, Elizabeth, and his truck-driver stepdad, Horace. (At 11, he learned his biological father was Major League Baseball pitcher Tug McGraw.)

McGraw never fathomed he could make a career out of his voice until he got to college at Northeast Louisiana University and started playing guitar—which he bought for \$25. “I learned 50 songs and it worked really well with the girls,” he jokes. He dropped out a few years later and was signed by a Nashville label in 1990 at age 23. (McGraw toted that same beloved guitar to Montana to work on his new album.)

A few years earlier, 19-year-old Hill arrived in Nashville. She took orders at McDonald’s, became a secretary at a music publishing company and eventually sang backup for songwriter Gary Burr when he performed at Nashville’s Blue-

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TIM & FAITH QUICK HITS

Favorite rom-com

McGraw: “What’s that Christmas movie with the English guy who’s a singer? *Love Actually*?”



Last TV binge

McGraw: “*Bridgerton*. It was very sexy. And for a 54-year-old married couple watching that show, it led to a lot of good nights.”

Best part about living in Nashville

McGraw: “The camaraderie, the friendship and the music.”
Hill: “It’s where we raised our children!”



Book you read to your girls when they were young

McGraw: “I read the *Harry Potter* books to them.”
Hill: “*The Little House* [by Virginia Lee Burton]. I read it when I was a child.”

Last time you were starstruck

McGraw: “When [co-star] Sam Elliott showed up on the set of *1883*. He’s such a stud.”



Favorite off-hours activity

McGraw: Fishing
Hill: Painting, drawing, photography

Favorite family activity

Hill: Playing trivia games
McGraw: Cooking

White lights or colored lights on a tree?

Hill: “We’ve gone back and forth, but the last few years have been colored.”
McGraw: “Colored lights.”

Christmas Eve meal

McGraw: “Our tradition is meatballs and pasta.”



Favorite Christmas song

McGraw: “Away in a Manger”

Spiked eggnog or mulled wine?

Hill: “Spicy mulled wine. I discovered it in Vienna and I’m still trying to find the best recipe for it. If anyone who reads this has a great one, please send it to me because I want to know!”

COVER AND FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMERSON MILLER/VIACOMCBS

FROM TOP: UNIVERSAL PICTURES/EVERETT COLLECTION; ISTOCK; MIKE NELSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES; EMERSON MILLER/VIACOMCBS; ISTOCK

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bird Café. She released her first album, *Take Me as I Am*, in 1993.

McGraw and Hill fell in love in 1996 during a tour. She accepted his marriage proposal at a music festival in Colorado. But before they wed, they had *The Talk*. “We discussed the odds of two people in the same industry doing the same exact thing for a living,” says Hill. “Even with our exploding careers, having a family was our number one priority. And we established how we could make it work.”

McGraw marvels at his wife’s family-first mentality: “When she won three Grammys in one night I was really proud of her. But I’m most proud of her as a mom because that’s where her heart is and where she spends her energy.”

ALL IS BRIGHT

The couple isn’t too busy to routinely count their blessings. They are quick to brag about their daughters. “They’re very independent and strong-minded young women,” McGraw says. Referencing his 2016 hit “Humble and Kind,” McGraw shares that his daughters have helped him: “I can fail at being humble sometimes, but then I look to them, and I look forward. They’re like a beacon.”

And they are thankful for each other. “To do this series together is really special. I can’t imagine doing it without my wife,” McGraw says. Hill adds, “I know no matter what happens, I’m his biggest cheerleader and he’s mine.”

Go to [Parade.com/1883](https://www.parade.com/1883) to find out how the Hill-McGraw family celebrates Christmas.



Ask Marilyn

By Marilyn vos Savant

My basement is clean and dry, with no insects except spiders. I kill every spider I find, but I always find a few more next time. How do they survive with no water and nothing to feed on?

—Geoff Geoffrion, Merrimack, N.H.

As your spiders haven't been thriving for years in a damp basement with a host of creepy crawlers for munching, and they didn't arise spontaneously, they are likely entering from outdoors through unnoticed portals and then eating tiny creatures that enter through the same places they did. Their prey itself contains moisture, and the common house spider can survive on very little food and water. Not that your place is exactly spider heaven.



Send questions to
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59	61	65	73	77
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23				41
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17	1	3	5	35

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12/12/21 MAGAZINE

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BLUEBERRY

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