

The DARING LIST

Fifteen risk-taking, trailblazing women talk about what it means to dare



MEGYN KELLY

FOX NEWS ANCHOR

What scares you? Professionally, nothing. My job is what I do, not who I am, so the thought of screwing up and losing it holds relatively little power over me. **Do you consider yourself daring?** I've taken big risks in my life, but I knew at heart they would work out. Is that daring? I think not. **What's been your most daring move?** Stepping away from my successful career as a lawyer at a top-notch firm for a television job that paid \$17,000 a year, inspired by the following realization: Just because you're good at something doesn't mean it makes you happy. **What's the most daring thing you've ever done on TV?** I think the readers can figure that one out.



JULIANNE MOORE & ELLEN PAGE

FREEHELD COSTARS

"I'M EMOTIONALLY FEARLESS BUT NOT PHYSICALLY," Julianne Moore says of her boldest recent feat: diving into a pool. Moore, who has given some of Hollywood's most dauntless performances, stars in *Freeheld*, based on the true story of Laurel Hester and Stacie Andree, a same-sex couple whose case to have Hester's pension benefits transferred to Andree when she was diagnosed with terminal cancer blazed a trail for gay rights nationwide. "It was intense, her first role as an out woman," says Moore of costar Ellen Page, who came out publicly in 2014. Page was introduced to Hester and Andree's story through the 2007 documentary that inspired the film—and which Page counts as a catalyst behind her own coming out. "When I was 21, I was shown the documentary trailer and asked to be involved. In tears, I said yes. It was a tough time; I was closeted, publicly but also personally." Now, Page hopes to see more gay narratives on-screen. "If every part I played was gay from now on, I'd be fine with it," she says, laughing. Who else is daring? "Lily Tomlin!" Moore exclaims. As for dressing to dare, "lately that means Givenchy. Riccardo Tisci makes you feel cutting-edge and beautiful." ➤

AMANDA HARLECH

STYLIST AND MUSE TO KARL LAGERFELD

"I dare by venturing forward, which is the Old English derivation of 'to dare.' The spirit of fashion is change; forward momentum with a sense of what's gone before and is to be. Still, I'm not a daredevil. As kids we dare each other to do crazy things. One summer I found what looked like a trampoline in a garden. I took a running jump and fell through a rotten tarpaulin, tumbling down a disused well. These days jumping my horse can make me nervous."





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NIKKI HALEY

SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR

someone else's shoes. South Carolina deserves a lot of credit for realizing why it was part of our past but didn't need to be part of our future. **What makes for a daring politician?** Being bold enough to have a vision and follow through. For an elected official, that means not just making decisions but the ability to communicate why. **You've marked a lot of firsts in politics as the first woman in your position, the youngest current governor, and the daughter of immigrants. Who inspires you?** My mom, who was one of the first female judges in India. She always said that can't is not an option.

After the devastating shooting in Charleston, you called for the removal of the Confederate flag from the State House grounds. **Why then?** We were in survival mode, and I needed to protect the people of my state. The flag is personal for a lot of people, and it's not that they're racists; to them, the flag is a sign of pride, bravery, and their ancestors' sacrifices. But to others it's a sign of pain. The biggest concern was how to communicate the issue in a way that got people to step into

CARRIE BROWNSTEIN

PORTLANDIA CO-CREATOR,
MEMBER OF SLEATER-KINNEY

"I'm a guarded person," says Carrie Brownstein, which is why she sees writing her candid memoir, *Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl*, as a particularly courageous move. What does it mean to dare? "To speak out and stand up, to innovate."



KATE MCKINNON

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE COMEDIENNE

"I get nervous backstage, so I tell myself that what I'm about to do will be the worst performance ever and will bring great shame to myself and my loved ones. If it's even slightly better, I'm thrilled."

RUBY ROSE

ACTRESS, DJ, FILMMAKER

"It was the right time," Ruby Rose says of the international discussion about gender roles her short film, *Break Free*, helped ignite. Of those who get hung up on her own sexual identity, Rose says, "My gender is none of their business, and how they view me isn't really any of mine."



MONICA LEWINSKY

SOCIAL ACTIVIST



Who is daring? People who speak their truth and fight injustice. (Also, my next boyfriend!) **What helped you confront**

the public eye when you did?

After living in the shadows for more than a decade, it was a confluence of events. One was my experience around the tragic suicide of college freshman Tyler Clementi, who had been outed and publicly ridiculed online. Seeing my mom relive the fear she experienced in 1998 that I would be humiliated to death opened my eyes to how the world had changed with the advent of social media. No longer was public humiliation just for public figures. Simultaneously it became clear to me that it was time to take back my narrative. The TED Talk I gave in March was an opportunity to expand on some themes I touched on in my *Vanity Fair* essay and my Forbes speech. I worked harder on it than my master's thesis! That it has resonated with people and has been shown in some classrooms made facing every fear I had about it worthwhile. **What's a time that you took the daring path?** January 16, 1998: I faced a choice between a guarantee of not going to jail versus doing the right thing. I was 24. In an FBI sting related to Ken Starr's investigation of the Clinton administration, I was offered immunity from prosecution in exchange for cooperation, which meant wearing a wire in face-to-face meetings and making monitored phone calls, both targeting President Clinton, his best friend, and his secretary. I refused. ➤

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SEAN RAYFORD/GETTY IMAGES; ANTHONY HARVEY/GETTY IMAGES; PRESLEY ANN/PATRICKMULLAN.COM; AUTUMN DE WILDE; MARY ELLEN MATTHEWS

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TILDA SWINTON

ACTRESS AND CO-AUTHOR OF *IMPOSSIBLE WARDROBES*

"The strange thing about daring is that it most ordinarily lies in the eye of the beholder. In each of our lives, there are brave deals made with the self that are deeply private and not for sharing, let alone for public consumption. But, on the whole, one woman's perceived bravery is often a simple matter of her following her instinct. I suppose what people call bravery in others corresponds pretty closely to what they find difficult themselves."

Impossible Wardrobes, co-written by Olivier Saillard, will be published by Rizzoli in November



JEMIMA KIRKE

PAINTER AND *GIRLS* ACTRESS

Who is daring? Any woman who doesn't let society tell her how to think, what to think, what to look like, how to parent, how to behave, how to fuck, how to love, how to talk, how to succeed. **Truth or dare?** I always pick truth. I find it much more daring.

PATRICIA ARQUETTE

ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS;
ACTIVIST; STAR OF CBS'S *CSI: CYBER*



WHEN I WAS 17, I set up a social experiment for myself. I wanted to be either an actor or a midwife. I was terrified of acting—I was shy, and I had seen my dad struggle in the business. I was afraid of failing, of not being able to make a living, of other people's judgement, of being bad at it. But more than I wanted to be an actor or a midwife, I wanted to be a brave person. So I decided that every day for a year I would do something toward acting—study a performance, take a class, go to auditions. I told myself that every time I got negative feedback, it was a win because it meant that I was being brave, which is what I wanted to be most of all. It was like a game: I was willing to fail every day for a year, and if I didn't get work by its end I would have achieved "bravery" and go be a midwife instead. But I got an acting job in the movie *Pretty Smart*, terrifying in itself. We filmed in Greece, and the set was insanity. I was still in high school, and everyone was always fighting and on drugs. When they brought in lunch, the meat had fur on it. I was stumbling over my lines, and it was hard for my ego to have trouble hitting the right marks. But often ego gets in the way of bravery. It was like a test: Am I brave enough to be brave?



PEGGY NOONAN

WALL STREET JOURNAL COLUMNIST,
AUTHOR OF *THE TIME OF OUR LIVES*

"Every Thursday when I hit 'send' for my column, I'm going out on a limb. To share your political thoughts with a rambunctious nation of 330 million is a bit daring. I've had two really daring moments, though. The first was to end a career, leave a hometown, go to Washington—where I literally knew no one—and enter the White House as a speechwriter to President Reagan. The other was to leave Washington five years later, come back to New York, and try to support myself and my son as a writer."



ILANA GLAZER & ABBI JACOBSON

THE BROADS OF *BROAD CITY*

"Daring means being afraid of something and doing it anyway," says Abbi Jacobson, which is what she and Ilana Glazer did by launching *Broad City*, now a Comedy Central hit, in quite the D.I.Y. fashion. Their inspirations? "Susie Essman, whom we work with; Joy Behar; and Whoopi Goldberg. They did stand-up 30 years ago and were a big part of second-wave feminism," Glazer says. Adds Jacobson, "I read about this amazing woman, Madelyn Pugh, / *Love Lucy's* only female writer. Any acts Lucy was nervous about, [Pugh] would try first. She was always down, and you've never heard of her. *That's* daring." ■

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: VINCENT LAPARTIENT; FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES; WELANIE DUINEA/CPI; DANIELLE LEVITT FOR COMEDY CENTRAL; WADE OATES