

# Parade

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 | PARADE.COM

Plus  
Michael Douglas  
Turns 78! p. 4



## The Witches Are Back!

Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker  
and Kathy Najimy return as high-flying  
sisters in *Hocus Pocus 2*

# Personality Parade

WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

## NATHAN FILLION

The *Castle* and *Firefly* star, 51, returns as John Nolan for season five of the police drama *The Rookie* (Sept. 25 on ABC). In the new episodes, Nolan achieves his dream of becoming a training officer, but remains a rookie—as the LAPD's oldest newbie training officer.

**What's it going to be like for Nolan in his new job?** Celina Juarez (Liseth Chavez) comes in and she is very motivated, very driven . . . and very, very young. It's apropos that she has Nolan as a T.O., because she makes a lot of the same mistakes that he made in the beginning. It's a very nice echo of how Nolan started.

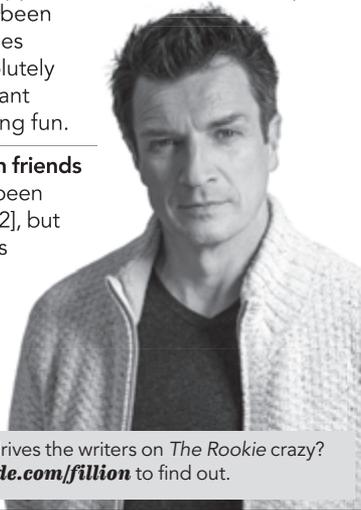
**Which of Nolan's qualities do you most admire?** Patience. Also, Nolan has a gentler temper than I do; I get cranky.

**Both *Castle* and *The Rookie* are dramas, but they have humor.** They are light dramas, yes. There are moments of intensity with largely happy lives, which I think is how my life is, so I hope that's close to reality.

**Are you attracted to the bizarre? You played a head in *Santa Clarita Diet* and**

**an octopus in *Resident Alien*.** I don't say to myself, "I would like to play an octopus next." No, Alan [Tudyk, *Resident Alien*], calls me up and says, "Hey, we should do each other's shows." He gave me the octopus [and Tudyk appeared on two episodes of *The Rookie*]. It's just a matter of saying yes when an opportunity comes down the pike. My opportunities have been largely heroic, sometimes goofy, other times absolutely bizarre. And the important thing is that you're having fun.

**You and Alan have been friends for a long time.** We've been friends since *Firefly* [2002], but we met each other years prior. When we became friends, we found out he used to be my waiter at my favorite restaurant in my neighborhood in New York.



What does he do that drives the writers on *The Rookie* crazy? Go to [Parade.com/fillion](https://www.parade.com/fillion) to find out.

## CHEERS TO ZAC EFRON

Efron, 34, stars as John "Chickie" Donohue, a man who just wants to share a cold one with friends, in *The Greatest Beer Run Ever* (Sept. 30 on Apple TV+). The twist is, it's 1967 and his buddies are in Vietnam. It's based on the true story of Donohue, a Marine veteran who returns to the war zone just to deliver some hometown refreshment to his old pals. The movie also features Russell Crowe and Bill Murray, and it's directed and produced by Peter Farrelly, whose previous film, *Green Book*, received three Oscars.



## A BEWITCHING SIGOURNEY WEAVER

Weaver and Kevin Kline, 74, who co-starred in the political comedy *Dave* and in the drama *The Ice Storm*, reunite in the dramedy *The Good House* (Sept. 30 in theaters). She plays Hildy Good, a New England real estate agent directly descended from Salem witches, whose compartmentalized life begins to fragment when she reconnects with an old flame (Kline). "What a jackpot of a character!" says Weaver, 72. "I was excited to be able to tell the story of an older woman from her point of view. When does that happen? It's such a witty script and an unusual love story."



SCAN TO SIGN UP FOR MORE

WALTER SCOTT

## BACK IN THE KITCHEN

Competition will be fierce when *Hell's Kitchen: Battle of the Ages* premieres Sept. 29 on Fox with chef **Gordon Ramsay**, 55, overseeing culinary showdowns between seasoned chefs and younger challengers. Here are some fun facts about the *MasterChef* judge, who began his own career in England as a restaurant pot washer.

▶ His feet are a U.K. size 15—the equivalent of a U.S. size 16! All his shoes are custom-made.

▶ Ramsay has competed in more than 15 marathons and in one of the world's toughest races, the Ironman World Championship.

▶ Soccer (or football, as he calls it) was Ramsay's dream career before injuries forced him to change his plans.



▶ Vowing to never eat air-plane food, he opened **Gordon Ramsay Plane Food** at London's Heathrow airport so people can carry on their meals.



▶ He's a black belt in karate.



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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Michael Douglas!

The two-time Oscar-winning actor celebrates his 78th on Sept. 25 (the same day his wife, actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, celebrates her 53rd). With more than 50 years in the entertainment business—and upcoming roles as President Ronald Reagan in the limited series *Reagan & Gorbachev* and Benjamin Franklin in an Apple TV+ series—he surely has lots to celebrate. Go to [Parade.com/douglas](https://www.parade.com/douglas) for the inside stories on the star's best roles.



(1) *The Streets of San Francisco*; (2) *Romancing the Stone*; (3) *The American President*; (4) *Behind the Candelabra*; (5) *The Kominsky Method*; (6) with his dad, actor Kirk Douglas



## Ask Marilyn By Marilyn vos Savant

I'm a slow reader compared to some members of my book club. Why are we so different? Is it intelligence?

—B. Jefko, Westchester, Ill.

Cognitive processing (understanding what you read) doesn't correlate with speed. In fact, beyond a normal range, faster reading always reduces comprehension. Slow readers more likely acquired habits during childhood that are hard to break. Foremost by far is "subvocalizing." The more we read aloud in our heads, the slower we read. Another issue is unconsciously reading word by word instead of moving smoothly forward. Regardless, if you're reading fast enough for your needs (work, school, etc.), speed is irrelevant. Faster reading is not better reading.

KIRSTY SPAROW/GETTY IMAGES FOR DISNEY; 1-EVERETT; 2-20TH CENT FOX/EVERETT; 3-MARY EVANS/RONALD GRANT/EVERETT; 4-CLAUDETTE BARUS/HBO FILMS/EVERETT; 5-NETFLIX/EVERETT; 6-SGRANTZ/REXUS/GETTY IMAGES. RECIPE PHOTO BY CHANTHELL AND BRETT QUERNMOEN. FROM 'HOME IS WHERE THE EGGS ARE' BY MOLLY YEH. COPYRIGHT © 2022 BY MOLLY YEH. REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF WILLIAM MORROW, AN IMPRINT OF HARRPOLLINS PUBLISHERS.



## Easy Deep-Dish Pizza

Piled high with cheese, sausage and veggies, this pizza is an easy, satisfying dinner. The recipe is from *Home Is Where the Eggs Are* by Molly Yeh, host of Food Network's *Girl Meets Farm*. "This pizza is sort of like Chicago meets the farm because it's a deep-dish pizza, but I do it in a cast-iron skillet," says Yeh.

### BROCCOLINI, SAUSAGE AND LEMON DEEP-DISH PIZZA

Can't find broccolini? Substitute regular broccoli florets.

Preheat oven to 450°F.

Swirl 2 Tbsp **extra-virgin olive oil** around the bottom and sides of a 12-inch cast-iron skillet or 10-inch round cake pan. Add 1 lb **pizza dough**, at room temperature, patting it so it covers the bottom and comes up about an inch on the sides. Scatter with 2 cloves **garlic**, thinly sliced; 8 oz **fresh mozzarella**, roughly torn; dollops of 1/3 cup **whole-milk ricotta**; and grated zest of 1 **lemon** all the way to the edge.

In a small bowl, toss 4 oz **broccolini**, cut into 1/2-inch pieces, with a drizzle of olive oil to coat; scatter over pizza. Season with a good pinch of **kosher salt**. Top pizza with small pinches of 4 oz **raw Italian pork sausage**, casings removed. Bake 20 minutes or until cheese is melted. Shower with grated **Parmesan cheese** and a couple of pinches of **crushed red pepper**. Run a knife or offset spatula around edge; use a spatula to transfer pizza to a cutting board. If desired, serve with warm **marinara sauce** for dunking or drizzling. **Makes 1 (10- or 12-inch) pizza.**

Go to [Parade.com/yeh](https://www.parade.com/yeh) for Yeh's pumpkin bread recipe.

Send questions to [marilyn@parade.com](mailto:marilyn@parade.com)

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**Ask your cardiologist  
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**Y**ou believe in magic, right? Because there's no other way to explain the scene in Providence, R.I., last November as Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy showed up for the first day of production on *Hocus Pocus 2*, the follow-up to their 1993 comedy classic about three witches resurrected 300 years after their deaths on Halloween.

"It was like we just had gone out to lunch," says Midler. "We went right back with our characters in such a silly way."

The movie magic at work was the seamless reunion of three actresses who first cast their spell over moviegoers nearly 30 years ago. And with *HP2* launching Sept. 30 on Disney+, fans can finally see the comedically diabolical Sanderson sisters—Winifred (Midler), Sarah (Parker) and Mary (Najimy)—wreak more hilarious havoc in their haunted hometown of Salem, Mass. "We're very much keeping in the tone and spirit of the first," Parker says. "It's ridiculous and not too scary."

As for the plot, three new witchy young women (played by Lilia Buckingham, Belissa Escobedo and Whitney Peak) are standing in the sisters' way of domination. "We really want to get rid of them," Midler says. As in the 1993 original, the Sandersons—joined by a new cursed black cat—let the insults (and broomsticks) fly. There also will be music with all



## What was it like for Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy to return as high-flying sorceress sisters in *Hocus Pocus 2*? They tell all. BY MARA REINSTEIN

the magical mayhem, and they once again will break into song. *Many* songs.

This all should be music to the ears of the generations of viewers who consider the fun-for-all-ages romp a spooky staple. "There is definitely a cult following," Najimy says. "It's surprising but delightful."

### The Three Stooges ... in Skirts

The actresses think they know why the movie has become so enduringly popular. Parker, 57, likes the "sophistication" in its mix of humor and supernatural hijinks. Najimy, 65, notes that goofy

Halloween-themed movies are few and far between. And Midler, 76, recalls her epiphany upon rewatching *Hocus Pocus* some 15 years ago. "I always thought I was the star of the picture," she says jokingly. "And then I saw what the other two girls were doing. They were so funny! I realized, 'Oh, my gosh, it's all about the trio! We're like the Three Stooges in skirts!'"

There's also something about watching witches in action. After all, great witch stories like *Hocus Pocus* (or TV series such as *Charmed* or *American Horror Story: Coven*) are driven by powerful women who refuse to conform to the norm; this often conjures up a mighty super(natural) experience. Najimy can recite witch lore dating back to the 1600s. "Women have always tried to lift themselves up, but I don't know how the ugly warts on the nose started," she says. "There's just confusion about what women really are and why we don't suffer fools," Midler says. "Men didn't used to burn them at the stake for nothing! We've come a long way since then."

The New York City-based actresses have stayed tight over the decades. Midler and Najimy and their respective husbands, performance artist Martin von Haselberg and singer Dan Finnerty, enjoy get-togethers with mutual friend Gloria Steinem; Parker and Midler, Broadway vets who both appeared in *The First Wives Club* (1996), get together socially and share mutual pals.

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## Ups and Downs (Literally)

After the project was green-lit, the actresses had to coordinate availability. “That took about 75,000 years,” Najimy jokes. Parker describes her crazed schedule: “I finished [*Sex and the City* sequel] *And Just Like That...* at 8 o’clock on Nov. 8, got in a van to Providence and started *Hocus Pocus 2* the next day. We finished Jan. 26 at 2 in the morning. I got in the van back to New York and started rehearsals for the play [*Plaza Suite*, with her husband, actor Matthew Broderick] the next day.”

And while Midler and Najimy easily summoned their respective characters, Parker admits that her prep included finally watching *Hocus Pocus* for the first time (!) to fully prepare for her reprisal of ditzy Sarah, whose singing voice lures children out of their beds. “I was terrified because I can’t bear watching myself,” she says. “But I had to figure it out again, especially the physical movements. And it was actually fun!”

The production itself was quite the journey. Due to pandemic health protocols, “We would film, put on our masks and then run to our cubbyholes and not see anybody,” Midler says. With no communal snack table, she adds, the actors feasted on canned sardines, Triscuits, grapes and hummus. And when the cameras rolled in ultra-chilly New England, “Sarah was

bouncing around in a costume that’s extremely flimsy, and she never complained!” Midler says. “I’m there in long underwear and two layers of nylons.”

Challenges aside, the actresses rave about their “air”

time—when they were hoisted aloft to simulate flying. “I think the flying is what we were all looking forward to the most,” says Najimy, whose character gets around via a vacuum cleaner. “We got to do it three times, and I would have done it

every day if I could.” Adds Midler, with no pun intended, “We had our ups and downs making this movie, but it was a labor of love.”

## Casting a Spell

The Sanderson sisters’ story began back in the late 1600s, during the height of the witch-hunt frenzy; the *Hocus Pocus* tale starts in 1992. The three stars were at different points in their careers when plans came together for the film. Midler was an icon thanks to her brassy revues, Grammy-winning music career and films like *The Rose* and *Beaches*. Najimy was a standout from *Sister Act* and *Soapdish*. And Parker was a Broadway vet and sparkling screen star of romantic comedies including *L.A. Story* and *Honeymoon in Vegas*.

“I remember I was living out of a suitcase, knitting all the time, and I had just met Matthew,” Parker says. “So I was occupied in ways that were really exciting.” She jumped at the opportunity to do *Hocus Pocus*, primarily because she’d have a chance to work with one of her idols: “When I was about 13, the stage manager for *Annie* took me to see *Bette! Divine Madness* on Broadway. I was a great admirer, and the idea of working with her was enormously appealing.”

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# ROLE Call

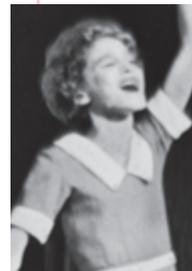
**BETTE MIDLER** shines in every role, from onstage promoting her hit album *The Divine Miss M* (1972) to *Beaches* (1988) and *Hello, Dolly!* (2017). It may have been a hard-



knock life for **SARAH JESSICA PARKER** in *Annie* (1979), but her tomorrows were sunny with great roles,



including *Honeymoon in Vegas* (1992), *Sex and the City* (1998–2004) and *And Just Like That...* (2021–). From *Sister Act* (1992) to star turns in *The Wedding Planner* (2001), *King of the Hill* (1997–2010) and *Veep* (2014–19),



**KATHY NAJIMY** has been a fan favorite.



## WHICH WITCHY POWER WOULD YOU LOVE TO HAVE?

**Midler:** The ability to turn my enemies into dust would be good.

**Parker:** I’m scared of flying typically, but the way that Sarah Sanderson gets to fly is such a good feeling. I’d be thrilled with that.

**Najimy:** Flying. Being up in the air is the most otherworldly, exciting feeling ever.



## TYPICAL HALLOWEEN PLANS?

**Midler:** I have an organization called New York Restoration Project, and we do a costume ball on Halloween to raise money for gardens and programs.

**Parker:** Now that [my daughters] are old enough to walk around the neighborhood by themselves and don’t really want me along, I take care of the neighbors and make sure we have as much candy as possible. But I don’t dress up. I never have.

**Najimy:** We used to do it really big when we lived in L.A. The whole house would be crazy, with people jumping out of things. Now that my daughter [Samia, 25] is older, we just hand out Tootsie Rolls.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: DISNEY; ROBERT KNIGHT ARCHIVE/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES; BUENA VISTA PICTURES/EVERETT; RICHARD CORKEY/NY DAILY NEWS ARCHIVE VIA GETTY IMAGES; COLUMBIA/EVERETT; MAXIMUM FILM/ALAMY

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from page 7

Najimy jokes that she was a full-on Midler stalker, even going so far, after one of the Divine Miss M's L.A. concerts in the 1970s, as to run past security guards and into Midler's



### FAVORITE SCARY MOVIE?

"I'm too high-strung to do scary movies. And I'm afraid of my own shadow. But my favorite is Alfred Hitchcock."

dressing room backstage to meet her. "She was just sitting there, and I said, 'Oh, my God, I love you!'" Najimy recalls. Cut to decades later when a Disney executive called Najimy and asked if she'd like to play Midler's sister in *Hocus Pocus*: "That was my peak moment."

Once shooting started on the Disney back lot in Burbank, Calif.—only a few exteriors

### DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?



"Absolutely! I came from a small town, we struggled financially and I don't look like a supermodel. None of those things were a surefire path to success."

were filmed in New England—the actresses bonded like family. Parker says the trio would eat lunch together in Midler's trailer every single day, with meals provided by the star's personal chef, who wanted them to eat mindfully. "The cook wanted us to chew 30 times before swallowing our food," Parker recalls.

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## OVER 56 TOTAL SERVINGS



from page 8

Over the years, the film hit the nostalgic sweet spot for kids and their parents. Parker says her 13-year-old twin daughters, Marion and Tabitha, couldn't wait to meet Najimy and Midler on the set. Najimy adds that fans still send her "very creative" character artwork.

"It went from doing nothing and getting not-so-nice reviews to being beloved and on televi-

### BIG LIFE MOMENT?

"I was never sure I'd have a family. But my children [James, 20, and twins Tabitha and Marion, 13] are endlessly surprising. If a family is something you want, it's such an extraordinary but unpredictable experience and adventure."



sion every day and night around Halloween!" Midler says. "In a way, it was very moving for us because we felt justified. We were all very attached to those women and those characters."

Now it's time to say goodbye. The actresses have hung up their capes, ready to give their powers to aspiring younger witches. "We've told the story, and you don't want to beat a dead horse," Najimy says.

They're going out flying high: "We're talking about three women in solidarity really having a blast together," Midler says. "Our movie is *fun*. The last few years have been so rough, and I think it's time for a breather. This is *definitely* your breather."

Visit [Parade.com/bette](http://Parade.com/bette) for details of Midler's retirement plans.

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# Weird Herb Shocks Doctors With Relief of Leg and Feet Pain, Burning, Tingling, Numbness

**6 clinical studies show it is effective. Lost but now re-discovered. Thousands of new users report amazing relief from leg and feet problems in just 30 to 90 days – with no side effects. Available in all 50 states without a prescription.**

**By Michael Plane – National Health Press**

A re-discovery from the 1600s is causing a frenzy within the medical system. A weird herb has been shown in six clinical studies (and by thousands of users) to be very effective for leg and feet pain, burning and numbness – with no side effects – at low cost – and with no doctor visit or prescription needed.

This weird herb comes from a 12-foot tall tree that grows in Greece and other countries in Europe. In the old days, people noticed that when their horses who had leg and feet problems ate this herb – it was almost like magic how quickly their problems got much better. They called it the “horse herb”. Then somehow with Europe’s ongoing wars, this herbal secret got lost in time.

“It works for people who’ve tried many other treatments before with little or no success. Other doctors and I are shocked at how effective it is. It has created a lot of excitement” says Dr. Ryan Shelton, M.D.

Its active ingredient has been put into pill form and improved. It is being offered in the United States under the brand name Neuroflo.

## WHY ALL THIS EXCITEMENT?

Researchers have found an herb originally from Greece that has been shown in six placebo-controlled medical studies (543 participants) to be effective and safe. This natural compound strengthens blood vessel walls and reduces swelling to stop the pain and suffering.

Poor blood flow in the legs and feet is one of the common problems that develops as we age. Millions of Americans suffer from neuropathy and chronic venous insufficiency (CVI), edema, and other leg/feet problems – millions have these but are undiagnosed.

Today’s treatments don’t work for a high percentage of people – and they have side effects that make them hard to tolerate or that people do not want to risk. This includes prescription drugs, over the counter pain pills, surgery and compression.

Already popular in Europe, this natural herb is taking America by storm since it was announced last week.

## HOW IT WORKS

Here’s why you have pain now: Your arteries have weakened. Your arteries can’t carry enough blood, nutrients and oxygen down to your legs and feet. This damages your nerves and causes your burning, tingling and numbness.

The herbs in the pill Neuroflo strengthen your arteries that carry blood, nutrients and oxygen to your feet and legs. It improves your circulation so oxygenated blood goes to the nerves and repairs them. This makes your nerves grow stronger so your pain fades away and your legs and feet feel much younger again.

Until now, scientists could not combine these herbs into one pill without losing their full potency, but finally, they have succeeded.

Katerina King from Murrieta, California says, “I had hands and feet tingling and snapping and burning feeling. It made my life very uncomfortable. I had a hard time walking, my legs felt like they each weighed 50 pounds. Once I got in my car and my feet felt so heavy I couldn’t even drive the car. With Neuroflo I have no more tingling, cold or burning painful legs and feet. It went away.”

## WHAT DOCTORS ARE SAYING

“Now I finally have a natural solution I can recommend to my patients who suffer from leg and feet problems and pain. I’m delighted because previous treatments were not effective, but Neuroflo has worked for every one of my patients with no side effects” says Dr. Eric Wood, N.D.

**Dr. Ryan Shelton, M.D. says “This is new and different.** It works for people who’ve tried many other things before. It is natural with no side effects. Don’t give up hope for your leg and feet pain, burning, tingling and numbing. This pill is working for countless people after other treatments have failed them. I highly recommend it.”



“Neuroflo is a terrific choice for people with leg and feet issues. The clinical trials in



**RE-DISCOVERED LEG AND FEET PROBLEM SOLUTION:** In Greece in the 1600s, this herb was originally called “horse herb” because it was fed to horses with ailing legs. It has now been re-discovered and is giving soothing comfort to Americans who have leg and feet pain, burning, tingling and numbness.

support of this herb show it is very effective for safe and fast relief,” said Dr. Wood, a Harvard trained doctor who has appeared on award winning TV shows.

Now you can get a good night’s sleep - peaceful, restful sleep – with no pain, tingling, zinging, itching or zapping. Improve your balance and coordination. No side effects – safe to take with other medications. Enjoy your favorite activities and hobbies again. Be more active, have more fun, enjoy life more. Don’t risk irreversible damage to your feet and hands. Don’t get worse and wind up in the hospital or a nursing home.

Neuroflo is **GUARANTEED** to work for you – or you will get full refund with a 90-day unconditional money-back guarantee. It is **NOT** sold in stores or online. No prescription or doctor visit is required.

## 50% OFF FOR THE NEXT 10 DAYS

This is the official release of Neuroflo for Parade readers. Therefore, everyone who calls within the next 10 days will receive 50% OFF their first order. A toll-free hotline number has been set up for local readers to call for this 50% OFF savings. The number will be open starting at 7:00 am Sunday, September 25th and only for the next 10 days.

All you have to do is **CALL TOLL-FREE 1-877-232-7309** and provide the operator with the special 50% OFF discount approval code: **NEF158**.

Important: Due to Neuroflo’s popularity and recent media exposure on ABC, CBS and FOX NEWS, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not get through immediately, please be patient and call back. Those who miss the 10 day deadline for 50% OFF will have to pay more for Neuroflo.

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- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
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