

# 24 WOMEN WHO COULD CHANGE YOUR WORLD THIS YEAR

They're 45 and under, and they're *fabulous*.



LITERATURE



THE HOTSHOT PLAYWRIGHT

**SARAH RUHL**

Ask any theater buff who the it playwright is right now, and they'll likely name Ruhl, 31. Her comedy, *The Clean House*, is being staged in six major theaters this spring, and it garnered a finalist nod for a Pulitzer last year. Says Ruhl's mentor, playwright Paula Vogel, "She'll become her own vocabulary word."

THE BOOK WORLD'S BIG STAR

**LISA FUGARD**

As a child in South Africa, Fugard, now 45, and her family lived in fear because her father, playwright Athol Fugard, was an apartheid critic. Her debut novel, *Skinner's Drift*, recounts a woman's teen years at the end of that era. It's hailed as the launch of '06.



MEDICINE



THE NEXT NOBEL PRIZE WINNER?

**CAROL GREIDER**

Twenty years ago, Greider, now 44, and her then-advisor Elizabeth Blackburn discovered what's been called "the Holy Grail for cancer therapy"—telomerase, an enzyme that allows cancer cell and stem cell division. Now her work is leading to clinical trials that may find a better treatment for cancer.

MUSIC



THE SINGER YOU GOTTA HEAR

**JENNY LEWIS**

Jenny Lewis, 30, could've taken 2006 off—her band, Rilo Kiley, was coming off a big album and a tour opening for Coldplay. Instead, Lewis released her first solo album, *Rabbit Fur Coat*, a mix of gospel-pop-country gems heightened by her insightful songwriting. Elvis Costello has called her talent "remarkable."

HOLLYWOOD



THE BIG-SCREEN TALENT

**KERRY WASHINGTON**

"She stacks up against anybody," Spike Lee has said. Ever since Washington's heartbreaking performance in *Ray*, we've been waiting to see what this hugely talented actress, 29, will do next. She's made two compelling choices for '06: the drama *The Last King of Scotland* and the comedy *Little Man*.

THE NEW BREAKTHROUGH

**MICHELLE MONAGHAN**

Last year Monaghan, 29, played a brainiac in *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, a miner in *North Country* and a failed actress in *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*. But 2006 will see her in her biggest role yet: that of Tom Cruise's love interest in *Mission Impossible: III*.



THE COMIC GENIUS

## ALLISON SILVERMAN

Of the 63 people nominated for an Emmy last year in late-night comedy writing, Silverman, 33, was the *only* woman. (That was for her work on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*.) Now she's supervising producer of *The Colbert Report* on Comedy Central, where she oversees some of the most cutting-edge comedy around. It's a long way from the Chicago sausage factory where Silverman toiled as an office grunt before she got her big break. "In comedy, you have to have enough faith in your talent to spend years at a sausage factory," she says. "That's a lot of faith."

SILVERMAN: STYLIST: COURTNEY KWELA CRING; HAIR: DIEGO AMERICO FOR REDMEN AT DE FACTO; MAKEUP: ELAINE MADELOM FOR ARTISTSBYMOTHPRANO.COM; MARC JACOBS SWEATER; DRIES VAN NOTEN SKIRT; H. STERN EARRINGS; CITRINE BY THE STONES BRACELET; GINA COUTURE SHOES; RUIH; ANTHONY CHARVAISTRA; FIGARO: JOHN SCRANTON; GREIDER: NETH WELLS- PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AT JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE; LEWIS: AUTUMN DE WILDE; WASHINGTON: HENRY MCGEE/ GLOBE PHOTOS; MONAGHAN: PASCAL LE SEGREAIN/GETTY IMAGES; BOOK STILL: DAVID LEWIS TAYLOR

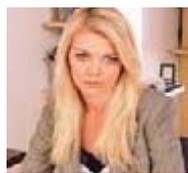


THE FEMINIST ARTIST

# WANGECHE MUTU

Soon after graduating from Yale's graduate sculpture program, Kenyan artist Mutu, now 33, got a visit from a curator with The Studio Museum in Harlem and was invited on the spot to join its 2001 group show. Since then, collectors have snapped up her work, which comments on race, genocide and our beauty-obsessed culture. "Our society places a lot of pressure on women. I'm as susceptible to it as anyone else," says Mutu. "But I can provide a solution by exposing it."

BEAUTY



THE BRIT IMPORT

## JEMMA KIDD

After "retiring" from modeling in her early twenties, Kidd, 31, enrolled in makeup classes and found her true calling. At her school in London, where she trains new artists, classes are so hot that the wait lists are over a year long. Next up? The U.S. debut of her appropriately named line, Gemma Kidd Make Up School.



THE EASY-MAKEUP MAVENS

## CHRISTINA ZILBER & KERRY MALOUF

Leave it to a pair of working moms to create makeup that's easy to use and super-flattering. In 2004 Zilber, 39, and Malouf, 36, created Jouer—a line of colors in cases that snap together, so you can customize your own palette. Says Zilber: "I kept envisioning something that would simplify my life."



THE SKIN-CARE GURU

## LISA PRICE

Price, 43, started out by mixing skin-care potions in her kitchen. Within a few years, her line, Carol's Daughter, had national press and celeb clients. Today her "hobby" is a multimillion-dollar company, with Jay-Z and Jada Pinkett-Smith (above left) among her investors. "I love the smell of the oils on my skin—and so does Will," says Pinkett-Smith.

DESIGN



THE DESIGN GENIUS

## DEBORAH ADLER

When Adler was studying for her masters in graphic design, her grandmother took the wrong medication because the prescription label on her pill bottle was hard to read. So Adler submitted a more user-friendly bottle design as her thesis. Target snapped up the patent, and now Adler, 30, is on the fast track to Hot Designer status.

POLITICS



THE D.C. POWER BROKER

## FRANCES TOWNSEND

When President Bush needed an investigator to find out what went wrong with the federal response to Hurricane Katrina, he brought in Townsend, 44, his homeland security advisor. Says a former colleague of Townsend: "Bringing [her] in is like bringing a pit bull to a hen fight."



THE PRESIDENT'S RIGHT HAND

## NICOLLE WALLACE

At 31, Wallace headed communications for President Bush's reelection campaign. At 33, she was named White House communications director by Bush because of what he called her "vital role" in his administration. "Every crisis and problem in the world comes to your doorstep," says Wallace, of her job, a 24/7 effort. "I didn't know I could live off cookies and no sleep."



MUTU: STYLIST: COURTNEY KIVELA; CRAIG; HAIR: DIEGO AMERCO FOR REDKEN AT DE FACTO; MAKEUP: ELAINE MADOLEN FOR ARTISTS BY TIMOTHY RANG; COM. JUICY COUTURE JACKET: KIDD: COURTESY OF JEMMA KIDD MAKE UP SCHOOL; ZILBER & MALOUF: JEFF LIPSKY; PRICE: JOHNNY NUNEZ/WIREIMAGE.COM; ADLER: GREGORY BULL/AP PHOTO; TOWNSEND: WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PAUL MORSE; QUEEN RANIA: CARSTER KOAL/GETTY IMAGES; WALLACE: WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY ERIC DRAPER; MAKEUP: STILLS: KEVIN GREEN; TARGET BOTTLE: TARGET CORPORATION; FASHION STILLS: DAVID LEWIS; TAYLOR: PAGE PERHIND/GETTY IMAGES; ALEXANDRA: NEEL SHOE; WIE: ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY IMAGES; FARRER: FARRER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES; ADAMS: GELLER; STEVEN LIPPMAN; HINES: MARK B. BAUSCHKE; BUTTE: NALLAH FEANNY/CORBIS; WATER: STYLIST: COURTNEY KIVELA; CRAIG; HAIR: AND MAKEUP: JENNI CLARK/WHE-REX AGENCY USING STILA; STELLA MCCARTNEY: SUIT: CALVIN KLEIN COLLECTION SHIRT.



SPORTS



THE NEW TIGER

THE GIRL WHO DUNKS

FASHION



THE JEANS GENIUS



THE SHOE GODDESS

FOOD



THE TASTE-MAKER

NEWS



THE NEW NEWS-BREAKER

BUSINESS



THE WALL STREET BOSS LADY

**MICHELLE WIE**

Last year Wie, at 16, finished second in the LPGA Championship. Nearly two decades younger than the top female player, Wie, who could make \$10 million this year in tour earnings and endorsements, is just getting started. Arnold Palmer has said, "She's going to attract people that even Tiger didn't—young people, both boys and girls, and families."

**CANDACE PARKER**

This Tennessee Lady Volunteers forward is one of only five women who have dunked in a game. "I've seen a lot of players, but nobody who will change the game like Candace," hoops legend Nancy Lieberman has said. Even though she sat out last year with an injury, Parker, 19, doesn't let it affect her: "My expectations far outweigh what anyone else can put on me."

**PAIGE ADAMS-GELLER**

In her best-selling line, Paige Premium Denim, the former fit model pays so much attention to details like proportion and pocket placement that her fans—Halle Berry and Salma Hayek among them—swear her jeans are the most flattering on the planet. Says Adams-Geller, 36: "Fit is always in."

**ALEXANDRA NEEL**

Manolo, Choo... *Neel?* Yes: With styles that are not only gorgeously feminine but comfort-conscious too, the Paris-based designer, 29, is causing buzz in the fashionista world—and finally making it easy for women to glide, not hobble, in stilettos.

**MARIA HINES**

Of the 10 "superstar chefs" to appear on the cover of *Food & Wine's* July 2005 issue, Hines, 33, was the only woman. At Earth & Ocean in Seattle, she's earned national acclaim for her use of seasonal local produce. And, says Hines, she loves what she does: "When I'm in the kitchen, it doesn't feel like working. I'm playing!"

**ANDREA KOPPEL**

Never hurts to have a famous dad, but Koppel, 43 (yes, Ted's daughter), made it to the top on her own merit. When a story breaks, she drops everything to get it: Koppel once went to Libya over Christmas while *eight months* pregnant to score an interview with Muammar Qaddafi. Now she covers the Bush administration's top players for CNN.

**AMY BUTTE**

Two years ago, Butte became the first woman ever to be named chief financial officer of the New York Stock Exchange. Now 37, she has a *huge* year ahead: She'll play a key role in a much-publicized NYSE merger with the electronic exchange Archipelago—the largest-ever linkup of its type.

THE COMPUTER WHIZ

**MARISSA MAYER**

Next time you track an ex-boyfriend's whereabouts or view your house from outer space on google.com, thank Mayer, 30, VP of search products and user information, for a company so successful that its name has become a verb. Since the former cheerleading captain needs only four hours of sleep at night, she's in her office until the wee hours, when the best ideas are percolating. "She's a geek," says one former employee, "but her clothes match."

Reported and written by Tiffany Blackstone, Joanna Bober, Molly Fahner, Christine Fellingham, Ann Gerhart, Wendy Naugle, Abigail Pesta, Leslie Robarge, Sarah Robbins, Laurie Sandell, Geraldine Sealey, Melissa Sones, Meghan Sutherland, Rebecca Webber

