



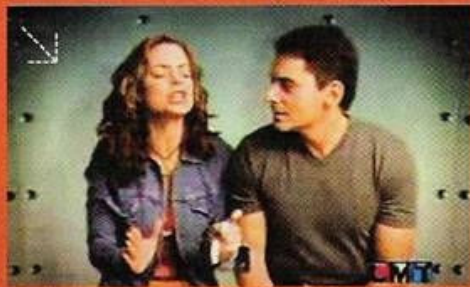
5 Things You Should Know About

Sara Ramirez

The Broadway veteran, 31, parlayed her 2005 Tony-winning turn as the Lady of the Lake in 'Spamalot' into a role on ABC's 'Grey's Anatomy': As sassy surgeon Dr. Callie Torres, she strong-armed George (T.R. Knight) into a relationship. Now meet the woman in the scrubs. —Vanessa Juarez

- 1 She plays a doctor on TV and has the brains to back it up. Born in Mazatlán, Mexico, and raised in San Diego, Ramirez—the daughter of an actress/singer/educator mother and an oceanographer/professor father—had originally considered a career in engineering.
- 2 Her character on *Grey's* is as self-assured as she is. "[Dr. Torres is] a tall, full-bodied Latina, who is being portrayed not as a victim of her tallness or of her size. [Creator] Shonda Rhimes wants to make Callie sexy," says Ramirez, who is 5'9". "Latinas—we're in touch with our sensuality."
- 3 Thanks to *Grey's*, Ramirez is more comfortable with her own anatomy. "I was pretty much naked last season.... They put me in my underwear, for God's sake. I felt intimidated and fat. I said to [Rhimes], 'Girl, there is so much cottage cheese up in this set.' She smiled and said, 'Work it.' She would not entertain my insecurities. It was a beautiful thing."
- 4 If she can make it there, she'll make it anywhere. In New York City, at age 17, "I lived in a 10-by-16 room with a loft bed at the top of a walk-up brownstone. The bathroom and fridge were in the hallway, [which] I had to share." Things began looking up when she entered Juilliard's drama program; upon graduation, she landed her first film role, as the grocery cashier who takes Meg Ryan to task ("*Cash on-ly*") in 1998's *You've Got Mail*.
- 5 Someday she'll return to the Great White Way. She's been in four Broadway musicals, including Paul Simon's *The Capeman*. "Theater is my home," she says, but "I never thought I'd be in a [TV] show of this caliber."

MY FAVORITE SCENE BRAD PAISLEY



The country star, 34, up for six CMA awards Nov. 6, had just started dating his wife, actress Kimberly Williams (*Father of the Bride*), 35, when she starred in his 2002 video "I'm Gonna Miss Her" (above): "The video is about women upset with men. We did 15 takes of her smacking the back of my head. She laughed every time. She definitely didn't have the remorse she should have!"



Scene-Stealer Jill Clayburgh

An Oscar nom returns to form with her moving work in *Running With Scissors*

Annette Bening has all the buzz, but it's Clayburgh who quietly makes off with *Scissors*. Whether eating dog food or poignantly urging her adopted son to run away, the 62-year-old exudes such comic despair as frazzled Agnes, it's easy to see why she earned Academy nods for 1978's *An Unmarried Woman* and 1979's *Starting Over*. "I loved playing this woman; I didn't wash my hair for weeks," she says. "It was gross, but necessary to become her."