

PersonalityParade®

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Q How's Carrie Fisher doing? She sure has been through plenty.—*Ellen Hall, Oklahoma City, Okla.*

A You said it. With bipolar disorder, drug addiction, a tumultuous personal life, and a lengthy, productive career as an actress and writer, Fisher, 52, has come a long way since she broke out as Princess Leia in *Star Wars* (1977). Her play, *Wishful Drinking* (now on Broadway), covers the whole ride, including electroshock therapy for depression. "I was very frightened," she tells us. "Electroshock has a stigma. But it's been incredibly helpful. I do maintenance every six weeks or so." And how's her mother, Debbie Reynolds? "She's great," Fisher says. "She lives next door, so I see her a lot."



Family ties: Fisher and Reynolds

Q Lots of novelists, including Carl Hiaasen and Jane Smiley, are writing young-adult novels lately. Are they in it just for the money?—*Jane Y'Hara, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

A There's another consideration. "It's fun," says the Pulitzer Prize-winning Smiley, whose first novel, *The Georges and the Jewels*, came out last month. "Since we want kids to read good books, why not try a hand at writing them?"

Q Macy Gray's 2007 album, *Big*, didn't do so well. Did it hurt her career?—*A. Miller, Orlando, Fla.*

A Her career, maybe, but not her spirits. "It went aluminum in the U.S., but out here it's doing pretty good," the singer/songwriter told us recently from Moscow, where she was finishing up a world tour. As for her recent *Dancing with the Stars* experience—she was quickly voted off—Gray is lucky she still has a day job. Her new album, tentatively titled *The Gray Life*, comes out next year.



Gray is keeping her day job

Q Sen. Edward Kennedy received full Catholic rites at his funeral. Since he was divorced and remarried, how was that possible?—*Mary Ellen Donaghy, Richmond, Va.*

A Kennedy's funeral set off protests among conservative Catholics, due less to the annulment of his first marriage than to his vigorous support of abortion rights. However, Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, who attended the funeral, strongly defended Kennedy's receiving full rites, citing the late Senator's penitent correspondence with Pope Benedict XVI and his request to the pontiff for prayers at the end of his life.

Q How many celebrities have run the New York City Marathon?—*Pat Stafford, Wheeling, W.Va.*

A A lot! P. Diddy, David Lee Roth, and Katie Holmes, among many others, have all completed the five-borough, 26.2-mile ordeal. The one we have our eye on this year is actor Edward Norton, 40, who trained with Maasai tribesmen in Kenya this summer and is running to benefit the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (check out his training photos, and this worthy charity, at maasaimarathon.com). "Winning has never been in the equation," first-timer Norton laughs. "I call it completing with honor."



Marathon man Norton



Eden as our dreamiest genie

Q Barbara Eden is so charming on *I Dream of Jeannie* DVDs. Is she still active?—*Bill Simpson, Albuquerque, N.M.*

A Very. Eden, 75, takes every interesting part she can, including a role in the upcoming Hallmark Channel original movie *Always and Forever*. "I like my work, and as long as people want me, I'll be there," she tells us. How did she feel, in her *Jeannie* days, about having the most famous bare midriff—and unrevealed belly button—on TV? "The producer, George Schlatter, decided he wanted to premiere my navel on *Laugh-In*," Eden says, "but NBC wouldn't let me do it." Different times!

Q What is child star Jonathan Taylor Thomas up to? Does he still act? Is he gay?—*Gallagher (no first name given), Madison, Wis.*



Thomas gets enlightened

A Since his wildfire success as Tim Allen's son Randy on *Home Improvement* and then as a teen idol, Thomas, now 28, has taken occasional movie and TV roles but mainly concentrated on his education, attending Harvard and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. As for his sexuality—or, for that matter, that of any other actor or actress—Walter Scott would like to ask, now and for the record: Whose business is it? And what does it matter?

P Have a question? Visit Parade.com/celebrity where you'll also find daily updates, videos, and exclusive interviews with the biggest stars. Or write Walter Scott at P.O. Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001.

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