

# THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WONDER WOMAN

THE  
WORLD'S  
GREATEST  
HEROINE

**WW84**  
FIRST LOOK  
AT THE NEW  
MOVIE



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THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WONDER WOMAN

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# THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WONDER WOMAN

Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot) fights mighty battles in her iconic golden eagle armor in *WW84*.

# COM



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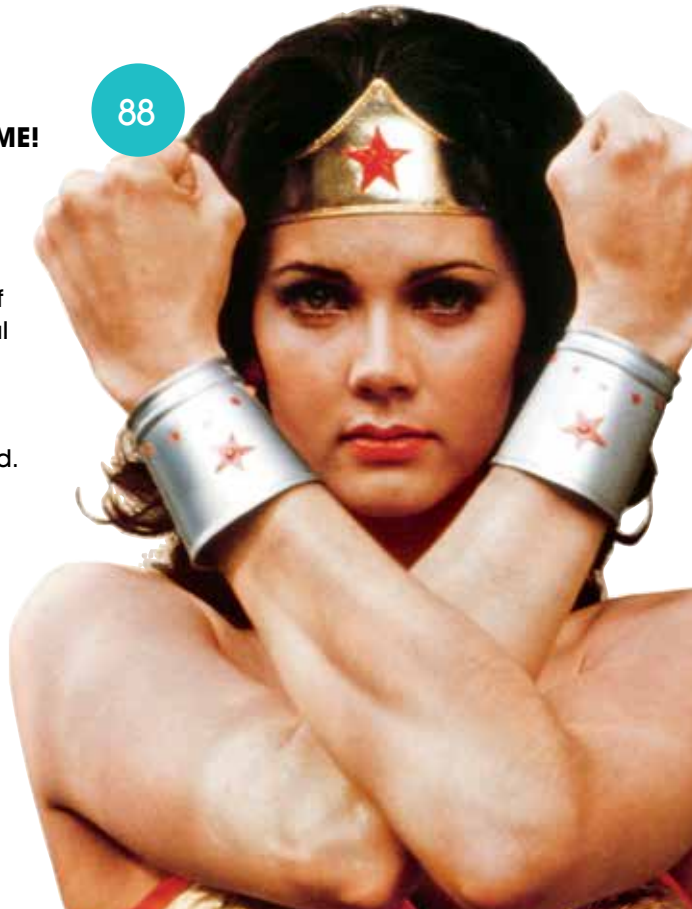
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For eight decades, Wonder Woman has been battling injustice and inspiring us all.

# A HEROINE FOR ALL TIME

**AT LAST, IN A WORLD TORN BY THE HATREDS AND WARS OF MEN, APPEARS A WOMAN TO WHOM THE PROBLEMS AND FEATS OF MEN ARE MERE CHILD'S PLAY...SHE IS KNOWN AS WONDER WOMAN.**

With those words, Wonder Woman crashed into our world in *All Star Comics #8* in 1941, and she's been an iconic part of pop culture ever since. An Amazon princess sculpted from clay and brought to life by the gods, Wonder Woman had the strength of Hercules, the speed of Hermes, the wisdom of Athena and the beauty of Aphrodite. In a world where superheroes were muscle-bound men quick to punch, she broke the mold with her compassion and gave women young and old a hero that looked like them. "Wonder Woman was the only female, so she was irresistible," legendary feminist Gloria Steinem has said. "She was the only hero that made you feel good about yourself."

While other characters came and went, Wonder Woman—aka Diana Prince—persisted through hundreds of volumes of comics. Her fights have changed with the times and trends, and she's battled everything from Nazis and terrorists to teen suicide and world hunger. But no matter the foe, Diana is always on the side of the just, having left her island paradise to make man's world a better place.

Of course, Wonder Woman is so much more than the reigning queen of the Wednesday weeklies. Even those who've never set foot in a comic book store are familiar with Diana's bullet-deflecting bracelets and lasso of truth, while her instantly recognizable red and blue

costume has been a go-to Halloween look for decades. The literal embodiment of a strong independent woman, she is a symbol of feminism and female empowerment.

Despite her status as a global icon, it took more than 75 years to bring a live-action Diana to the big screen in 2017's *Wonder Woman*. But the film, directed by Patty Jenkins and starring Gal Gadot, was a commercial and critical triumph that was well worth the wait and proved that, yes, a woman could indeed carry her own superhero flick. Gadot is donning the famed red bustier and tiara (and some spiffy golden wings as well) for the sequel, *Wonder Woman 1984*, and fans of all ages can hardly wait.

In these 100 pages, we'll explore the viciously interesting story of Wonder Woman's creation, her history in the comics, as well as her spins in TV and film, and of course her legacy, which is just as relevant today as it was in the 1940s. "She is much more about hope and tolerance than a lot of superheroes," famed comics writer Gail Simone has said. "She has grown beyond DC Comics, beyond any writer or creator." ★

# GET READY FOR WW84

EVERYTHING YOU NEED  
TO KNOW ABOUT DIANA'S  
LATEST ADVENTURE ON  
THE BIG SCREEN.

BY SHARI GOLDHAGEN



hen the trailer for *Wonder Woman 1984* dropped in December 2019, fans could barely contain their excitement. There was Diana, as beautiful as ever in her iconic red and blue costume, taking out baddies in a shopping mall and lassooing a lightning bolt to swing across the night sky Tarzan-style.

Of course, moviegoers around the globe had been eagerly awaiting the film since the credits rolled over the electric score at the end of 2017's *Wonder Woman*. With the Patty Jenkins-directed flick raking in more than \$820 million and scoring a whopping 92 percent fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes, a sequel was a no-brainer, but the studio had been especially stingy with info about the project, releasing only the brief logline: "Fast forward to the 1980s as *Wonder Woman's* next big-screen adventure finds her facing an all-new foe: *The Cheetah*." No worries, we have all the details to hold you over until the film finally arrives in theaters.

Gal Gadot is back as the immortal Amazon princess who can leap church steeples and cause a sonic boom by banging her bracelets. This time, however, Gadot's role is more than just in front of the camera. "In the first movie I was so happy to be there...I just followed what I was told to do," the Israeli actress told *Parade*. For the sequel Gadot had a hand in everything from story development to costuming. "So the experience was so much...richer and interesting and thrilling."

A definite thrill for fans will be seeing one of Diana's most famous rogues come to life via *Bridesmaids* actress Kristen Wiig. Cheetah made her comics debut in 1943 (just two years after *Wonder Woman* herself), and there are multiple incarnations

## MUSICAL NOTES

For *WW84*, director Patty Jenkins replaced *Wonder Woman* composer Rupert Gregson-Williams with music maven Hans Zimmer, whose epic catalogue includes the *Dark Knight Trilogy* and *The Lion King*. In 2016, the Oscar winner swore off scoring superhero cinema, so he opted not to do the music for the first *Wonder* film and actually lobbied to get pal Gregson-Williams the gig, but...

It was Zimmer who wrote Diana's motif music for her inaugural appearance in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*. "The *Wonder Woman* theme is mine, actually," he told *Collider*. "I wrote that damn thing. And we had done it live and it became more and more interesting. I just thought it was important to sort of finish it. And Patty phoned me, and she had a really interesting idea as well...it's a story you want to be a part of."

of the character. Jenkins' version sees Barbara Ann Minerva as a gemologist who works with Diana at Washington, D.C.'s National Museum of Natural History and befriends her before transforming into a powerful catlike creature. "Cheetah is...someone who's friends with Diana but jealous of her," Jenkins told *Entertainment Weekly*. "Kristen's playing a character who's both ends of the spectrum—she's your warm, funny friend who's kind and interesting and

then can transform into something completely different."

Footage from the trailer shows the two women sipping wine and discussing their lives. While Barbara says she's in love "all the time," Diana wistfully admits she was in love once, "a long time ago," and the camera shows a framed newspaper article about Captain Steve Trevor (Chris Pine)—Diana's lover who died in a suicide mission in 1918 at the end of the first film. It's not just Steve, though. An immortal demigoddess

### A HERO SEARCHING FOR HER WAY

"She's trying to make the world a better place, but she's lonely and struggling," Gal Gadot says of her alter ego, Diana.

living in "Man's World," Diana has watched people in her life die for decades, Gadot told *Extra!* "She's been around. She's much wiser and mature and lonely."

It seems she won't be alone for long. While *New Order's* "Blue Monday" pulses in the background, the preview shows Diana, in a gorgeous white gown, attending a gala, where Steve, just as handsome as when he kissed her goodbye, happens to be a guest. Wait, what?

While Pine has joked he would get a call from the studio for breathing even a word about his return, astute DC Comics readers think his appearance has something to do with the film's other villain, an affluent TV guru with a Duran Duran-esque haircut named Maxwell Lord (*Game of Thrones*' Pedro Pascal). In the trailer, Lord ominously says, "Think about finally having everything you always wanted," as Diana watches a plane overhead while likely thinking of her flyboy love. Might the thing Diana wants most be the return of her blue-eyed beau? Could Lord—whose comic book character has telepathic powers—somehow make it happen? If so, it wouldn't be without consequences, as Lord says later in the trailer, "I take what I want in return."

"Max is a dream-seller," Pascal told *Entertainment Weekly*. "It's this character who encompasses a component of the era, which is, you know, get whatever you want, however you can. You're entitled to it! And at any cost."

No matter how he's back, Steve is all in when it comes to supporting Diana. "What I've found this time, the tables had turned on me as a man in terms of how I interacted and played on screen," Pine told *Variety*. "I loved my lady.... So that came to define this man. What a wonderful thing...to be in love, as a man on screen in a big film."

While Steve had to show Diana around Man's World in the first flick, now it's her turn to introduce him to modern art, jet planes and car chases where she jumps over flipped semitrucks.

And Steve isn't the only one to make a return in the sequel. Trailer footage shows a flashback to Diana's homeland, where she trains among the Amazons and witnesses some sort of extreme parkour competition that makes the X-Games look tame.

There's also an epic battle that lays waste to the White House. And of course, what more motivation do you need to preorder tickets than Diana swinging on a lightning bolt? Says Jenkins, "I'm dying to release this film!"

**TOTALLY '80S**

For many, the Go-Go '80s are a perpetual joke of big shoulder pads, parachute pants and Rubik's Cubes, but that's far from Jenkins' take on the decade. "There's incredible music, incredible art...the 1980s was mankind at their most extreme and at their best," the director told *AM to DM*. "It was when we could do anything we wanted and we had no idea of the price yet. It's actually...the most aspirational and elegant version of the '80s."

**BIG HAIR, DON'T CARE!**  
For *WW84*, Diana's costume is noticeably brighter, but that's not all! "My hair is much bigger," Gadot has said. "We have all the '80s elements that are super cool and fashionable and retro."

PATTY JENKINS

CHRIS PINE

PEDRO PASCAL



There's also the backdrop of the Cold War, where tensions between the United States and Russia ran high, and the threat of nuclear war colored everyday life. No doubt that will impact our heroine as well.

But the decade is more than mere setting for *WW84*. Jenkins wanted the film to have an authentic aesthetic of the period. "We weren't trying to make a mimicry," she told *Total Film*. "We were trying to make a movie as if it was a grounded movie in the '80s." That meant forgoing much of the contemporary CGI used to create effects, which substantially upped the degree of difficulty from

the first film. "Doing all the stunts for real on wires...it's extremely complicated and time-consuming."

The resulting visuals allow viewers to feel as though they really are right there with the stars, because the stars themselves were right there. Just ask Wiig. "I was sore for about eight months. A lot of ice baths," she told *Entertainment Weekly*.

**CATCHING UP**

Never saw *Wonder Woman*? Never fear! While many superhero flicks (cough, cough, *Avengers: Endgame*!) are so intertwined it's hard to make capes or cowls without having seen

**SCENES FROM A MALL**

**AN EARLY SEQUENCE IN THE TRAILER SEES DIANA TAKING DOWN BADDIES IN A SUBURBAN GALLERIA.**

Galleria shopping centers are now a rarity, but in the 1980s, the mall was the place to be. The Limited and Esprit allowed teens from Iowa to buy the same rad threads as those in Cali. At Record Town and Babbage's, kids thumbed through thousands of tapes and videos. You could record your own tunes at Sound Tracks, which provided backup music, while at Glamour Shots, they dressed you up for your own photo sesh. And at the food court, mall walkers took a break for a slice of Sbarro.

E-commerce and discount retailers have since shuttered many malls. So to create an authentic shopping center in *WW84*, production designer Aline Bonetto took over the Landmark Mall in Alexandria, Virginia, which closed in 2017, and built out 65 storefronts. "This was a pretty cool 'adaptive reuse' of the mall site for its last chapter," shared Alexandria mayor Justin Wilson.



## SUPER BOWL SURPRISE

Super Bowl viewers got a brief peek of *WW84* in a Tide ad of all places. The multipart commercial began with *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia's* Charlie Day spilling red sauce on his shirt at a Super Bowl party. Co-star Emily Hampshire tells him he can wash it "later," because of Tide's stain-fighting prowess. But when, Day wants to know, is this mythical later?

In a series of four subsequent spots during the Feb. 2, 2020, game, Day attempts to find this "later" time. There's a Bud Light Knight crossover that sends him to "earlier" 1436 and one that sees him decades into a gray-haired future.

The third ad begins like the preview for *WW84*, with a costume-clad Diana swinging on her lasso through the mall. When she lands, however, there's Day holding his laundry basket. "We won't be doing that today," Diana says. Terrified of the imposing Amazon goddess, he simply nods.

multiple movies, Jenkins insisted *WW84* stand alone. "[She] was just determined that this movie should be the next iteration of Wonder Woman but not a sequel," executive producer Charles Roven has said. Just in case, here's what you missed:

*Wonder Woman* explores Diana's origins on Themyscira—an island nation populated by women warriors sculpted from clay by her mother, Queen Hippolyta (Connie Nielsen), and brought to life by Zeus, Diana hones her combat skills, eventually surpassing their greatest warrior Antiope (a fierce Robin Wright). "There was so much material about this character and so much legacy behind her that you can't grab everything," Gadot has said.

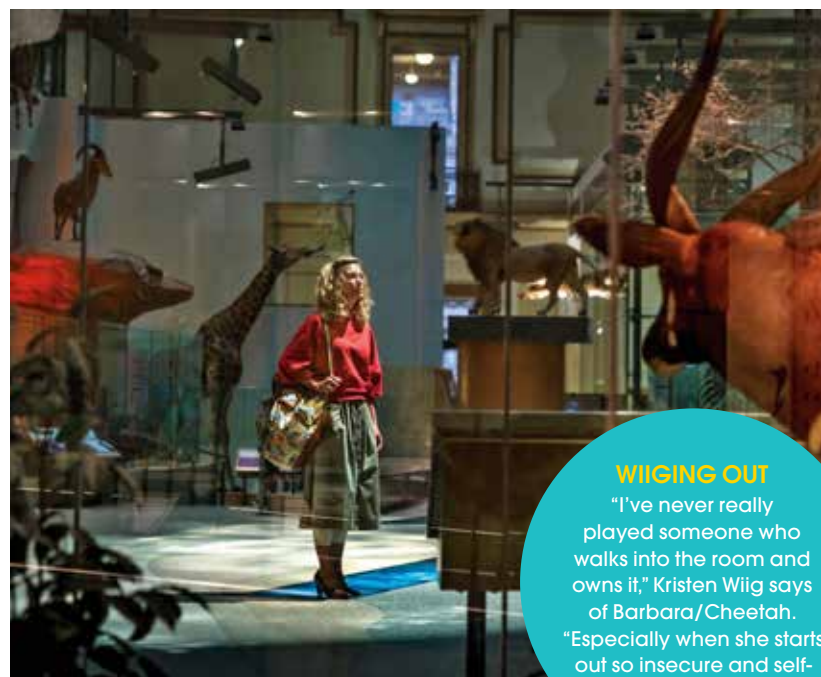
When U.S. pilot/spy/self-described "above average" male Steve Trevor crashes onto their shores with tales of World War I raging across Europe, Diana is convinced it's the work of Ares—the god of war and an Amazon foe. Defying her mother, Diana joins Steve's cause. "The hero's journey for her is one of pursuing it, as opposed to being drawn into it or reluctantly

agreeing to go along with it," Roven has said. "That makes her unique."

There's a wardrobe change; a secret identity, Diana Prince; and the discovery of evils like sexism as well as the joy of ice cream. "The film plays up Diana's naiveté (without making fun of her)...her stranger-in-a-strange-land schtick reaches charming heights," writes Kate Erbland of IndieWire.com.

Eventually, Diana and Steve foil the plans of General Ludendorff (Danny Huston) and twisted chemist Dr. Isabel Maru (Elena Anaya), who intend to use a lethal gas to extend the war. Along the way Diana and Steve save a village and celebrate with a dance and some fade-to-black time. Alas, Steve flies off on his suicide mission to destroy the gas, but not before confessing his love to Diana, who has her hands full in a one-on-one with Ares. Ultimately what allows her to prevail isn't superior strength, but her faith in love. "[Diana] has the strength of a goddess but the heart of a human," Gadot has said.

*USA Today* agreed, gushing "It's an action film, a romantic comedy



### WIIGING OUT

"I've never really played someone who walks into the room and owns it," Kristen Wiig says of Barbara/Cheetah. "Especially when she starts out so insecure and self-deprecating."



### COME BACK TO ME!

"Patty Jenkins was able to find a way to bring (Steve Trevor) back and fit him in a story in a clever way," Gal Gadot says of Chris Pine's return from the dead in *Wonder Woman 1984*.

and a coming-of-age story and a period piece and a war movie all in one. Above all, it's a hopeful story about humanity."

### LOOKING AHEAD TO *WW3*

Jenkins came up with the entire story for *WW84* while still in the throes of filming the first flick. Inspiration struck again on the set of the sequel, and she got the idea for the third installment of the franchise. "We actually already know the whole story and then some because there is an Amazon [spinoff] movie as well, and so we already have it all mapped out," Jenkins told a panel. "It's just a matter of will we change our minds and when."

While Warner Bros. is notoriously tight-lipped about upcoming



**I THINK ABOUT THE CHARACTER IN MY REAL LIFE.... SHE'S A BIG PART OF ME AND I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO KEEP BRINGING HER STORIES TO EVERYONE."** GAL GADOT

projects, Jenkins has said that unlike the first two movies, the third film won't be a period piece. Also a change, Pine has said Steve's story will wrap up in *WW84*, though given his great relationship with Jenkins, fans shouldn't rule anything out.

As far as new villains, multiple websites report the likely foe for *Wonder Woman 3* is Circe, a mythical sorceress from Greek mythology and one of Diana's chief villains in

the comics. Oscar winner Natalie Portman is reportedly the top choice for the gig, though her Marvel commitments may get in the way.

But don't expect to see the flick in theaters anytime soon. "It's important to give it a little rest in between," Jenkins has said. "I like doing other things in between. And Gal has other things to do. I never want to make decisions too far in advance." ★

# ORIGIN STORY

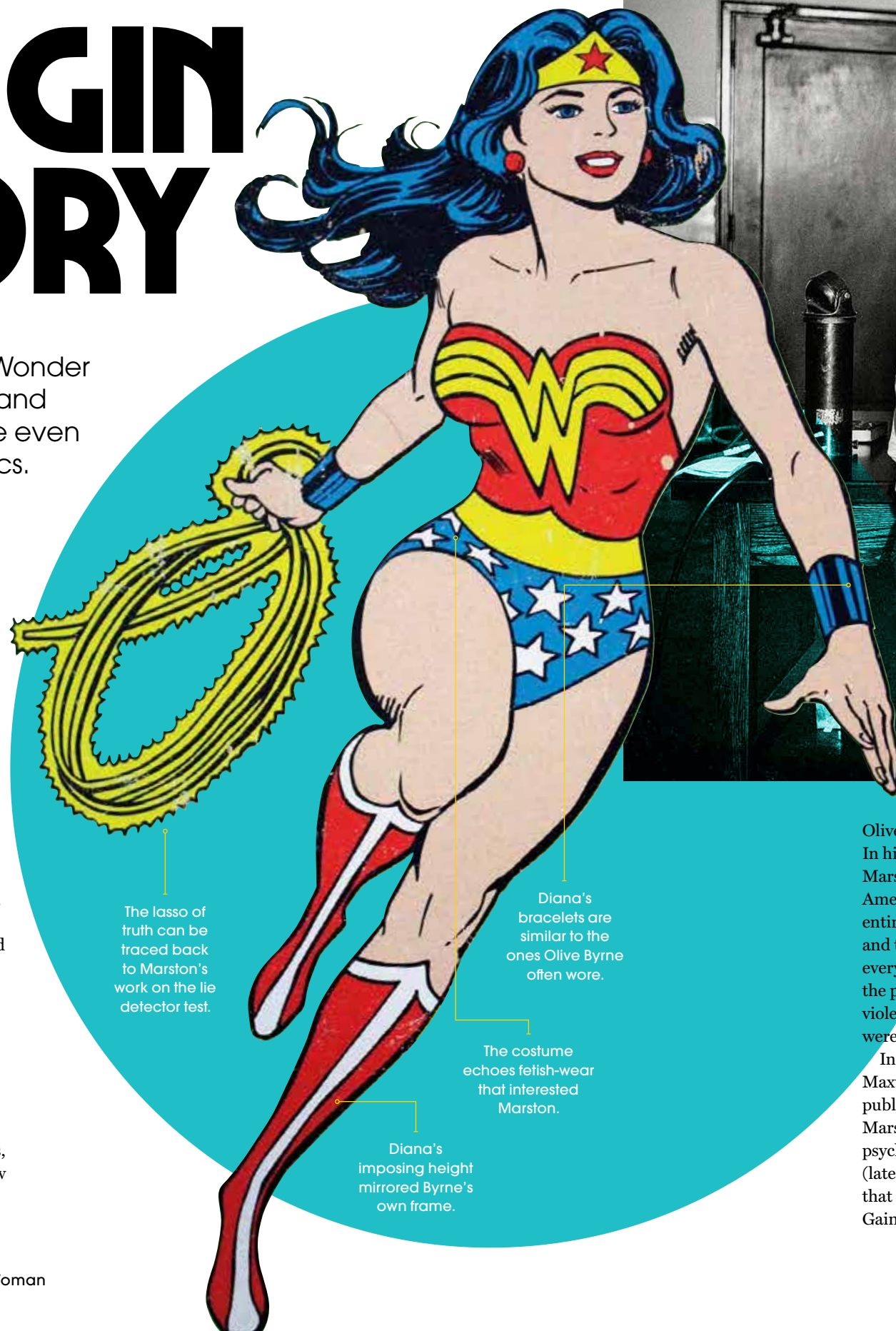
Suffering Sappho!  
The secret history of Wonder Woman's creation—and her creators—is a ride even wilder than the comics.

BY AIMEE LEVITT

In the comics, Wonder Woman sprang into being without help from any mortal man. Molded from clay by her mother Hippolyta, she was raised exclusively by the Amazons on Paradise Island and taught to be strong and brave and loving. She never even saw a man until Steve Trevor crashed his plane onto her shores.

In our world, Wonder Woman was brought to life by two men: writer Charles Moulton and the artist Harry G. "H.G." Peter. Moulton was actually the pen name of William Moulton Marston, a professor-turned-consulting psychologist who famously invented an early version of the lie detector test while he was an undergraduate at Harvard University.

The story goes Marston got into the comics business somewhat accidentally. In October 1940, in the midst of a panic among parents and teachers that comic books of the day were teaching children fascist values, *Family Circle* published an interview with Marston titled "Don't Laugh at the Comics" by a journalist named



The lasso of truth can be traced back to Marston's work on the lie detector test.

Diana's bracelets are similar to the ones Olive Byrne often wore.

The costume echoes fetish-wear that interested Marston.

Diana's imposing height mirrored Byrne's own frame.

## TELL THE TRUTH

With uncredited help from wife Elizabeth, William Moulton Marston created the systolic blood pressure test, a predecessor to the polygraph. Here he tries it on Robert L. Ripley, creator of Ripley's Believe It or Not.

Olive Richard (remember that name). In his capacity as a psychologist, Marston assured the mothers of America that comic books were entirely acceptable entertainment and that he himself had read almost every comic book printed over the previous year. Sure there was violence, he said, but the evildoers were always punished accordingly.

Inspired by this testimony, Maxwell "Charlie" Gaines, the publisher of *Superman*, invited Marston to become a consulting psychologist for Timely Publications (later DC Comics). The story goes that instead, Marston convinced Gaines what the world really needed

to counteract the "blood-curdling masculinity" was a lady superhero, "a feminine character with all the strength of Superman, plus all the allure of a good and beautiful woman." Marston said he himself should be the one to write it. He called her Suprema the Wonder Woman. His editor suggested they lose the Suprema. Marston brought on Peter, a longtime acquaintance, to do the drawing, and suggested he use the "Varga girls," pinup drawings by Alberto Vargas that appeared every month in *Esquire*, as inspiration. The rest is history with Marston writing *Wonder Woman* until his death from cancer in 1947.

That's the official version. The true story, which was hidden for decades, is far more interesting, and far, far weirder. In the same way Diana Prince had the secret identity of Wonder Woman, Charles Moulton had an alternate identity himself.

## UNCONVENTIONAL LIFE

In her exhaustingly researched 2014 book *The Secret History of Wonder Woman*, award-winning journalist Jill Lepore recounts how Marston, who was born in 1893, grew up in what was essentially a matriarchy, raised by his adoring mother and her four unmarried sisters. He was a firm supporter of women's suffrage and


**SUPER COUPLE**

Childhood sweethearts Elizabeth Holloway and William Marston wed in 1915. Both lawyers and psychologists, they co-wrote a textbook, *Integrative Psychology*.

believed that the world would be a better place if it were ruled by women (at least in theory). In 1915, the summer he graduated from Harvard, he married his childhood sweetheart, Elizabeth “Sadie” Holloway, a fiercely independent Classics enthusiast who had just graduated from Mount Holyoke College. They both attended law school (she was one of only three women in her class), and then she joined him in grad school to study psychology (Harvard for him, sister school Radcliffe for her) after she couldn’t get a job as a lawyer due to gender discrimination. She claimed in later years that Marston’s lie detector experiments had been her idea, as well as his experiments that proved women were better judges and jurors, but he was the one who got the PhD and the job as a professor, while she settled for an MA. During World War I, the only work she could find was a job selling Lifebuoy soap on the street.

While the childhood sweetheart element of their relationship is as American as apple pie, the

couple’s romantic life was far from conventional. In the 1920s, Marston and Holloway allegedly formed a threesome with another woman, Marjorie Wilkes Huntley, who lived with them occasionally. Along with Marston, she shared an interest in BDSM or “love binding,” literally with chains. Marston was, at the time, teaching at Tufts University and working on a theory that there were four primary emotions: dominance, compliance, inducement and submission—themes that can be found repeatedly in the Wonder Woman stories he wrote. As Marston himself explained, “Wonder Woman satisfies the subconscious, elaborately disguised desire of males

to be mastered by a woman who loves them.”

Marston’s research assistant was a student named Olive Byrne, who was tall and statuesque and wore heavy banded bracelets on her wrists (sound familiar?). She invited him into her sorority house to observe various rituals where the women tied up and beat one another and found pleasure, Marston wrote, in domination. (Later, when critics of the *Wonder Woman* comics complained about Marston’s excessive fondness for bondage—someone was tied up in every issue—Marston argued they simply didn’t understand psychology the way he did.)

Byrne’s aunt happened to be Margaret Sanger, the hugely influential (and controversial at the time) feminist and birth control crusader who had written a book called *Women and the New Race*, arguing women were a force of love and once they were freed from male dominance via birth control, the world would enter a new age of peace. (Peter was also a fan of Sanger, and before his turn as *Wonder Woman*’s illustrator, he had drawn cartoons for feminist publications like *The Judge*). Byrne became very close to Marston and Holloway. She joined them at gatherings at Marston’s aunt’s apartment, where a group of people who believed in a New Age of Aquarius talked about sex and feminine love and Marston’s theories of emotion, all while wearing very little clothing (much like a certain Amazonian heroine), according to Lepore.

Byrne graduated from college in 1926. Instead of going to medical



**FRANKLY, WONDER WOMAN IS PSYCHOLOGICAL PROPAGANDA FOR THE NEW TYPE OF WOMAN WHO, I BELIEVE, SHOULD RULE THE WORLD.”**

CREATOR WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

school as she’d originally planned, she moved in with Marston and Holloway. Each woman would eventually bear two children by Marston—four in total. There’s been some speculation on the part of later biographers—including Angela Robinson, director of the 2017 film *Professor Marston and the Wonder Women*—that the women were also lovers, but Christie Marston, Marston and Holloway’s granddaughter, believes this was unlikely. “They were best friends, so close as to be sisters,” she wrote in *The Hollywood Reporter*. “I can never swear that [Holloway] and Olive never connected sexually, but I can say with 99.99 percent certainty that they did not. It’s sad, really; it would have been a nice boon for them if they could have been lovers as well.” Still, after Marston’s death, the women continued living together for nearly 30 years, until Byrne’s death in 1985.

In 1928, Marston’s academic career collapsed, and he worked on various research and entrepreneurial projects, wrote books on lie detection and occasionally saw patients. Each of his women, meanwhile, had a clearly defined role: Holloway was the

breadwinner, supporting the family with various editorial and executive assistant jobs; much like the brilliant Diana worked as Steve Trevor’s secretary in *Sensation Comics*, brilliant Holloway worked as a secretary despite her exhaustive education. Meanwhile Byrne kept house, raised the children, and assisted Marston with his experiments and typed his papers. In her spare time, to earn some extra money, Byrne did occasional journalism for women’s magazines, including *Family Circle*, under the pseudonym...Olive Richard (remember that reporter?). Many of her stories involved a visit to Marston for some insight into a particular child-rearing problem—including the possible pernicious influence of comic books, the very story that brought Marston to Charlie Gaines’ attention in the first place.

Eventually the trio moved to a large house in Rye, New York. The neighbors were told Byrne was a widowed relative they had taken in. Each woman had her own bedroom; they were connected by a bathroom and Marston would move between them, and sometimes to Huntley’s room in the attic.

**FIT FOR FILM**

In the 2017 biopic *Professor Marston and the Wonder Women*, Rebecca Hall, Luke Evans and Bella Heathcote (below) played the heroine-inventing thruple; Oliver Platt and Connie Britton co-starred.



Wonder Woman’s first solo book, *Sensation Comics No. 1*, debuted in 1942.

When Marston began working at DC, he started developing the idea of a character whose superpower was love. But contrary to that original story, it was the once again undercredited Holloway who suggested, “Fine, but make her a woman,” according to Boston University’s alumni magazine. And with her extensive Classics background, Holloway contributed heavily to the hero’s origins among the fabled Greek Amazons.

Wonder Woman was advertised as Marston’s creation, “Beautiful as Aphrodite, wise as Athena, swifter than Hermes and stronger than Hercules,” but she had Holloway’s experience with the lie detector and knowledge of ancient Greece (“Suffering Sappho!”), Byrne’s height and trademark bracelets, Marjorie Wilkes Huntley’s fascination with bondage, and Margaret Sanger’s philosophy that the love of women would save the world and bring about a new age of peace. But when Holloway offered to take over writing *Wonder Woman* after Marston’s death in 1947, DC turned her down. The world was ready for a single Wonder Woman, but not a whole family of them. ★

# MATRIARCH OF THE SUPER FRIENDS

From the Justice Society comics to the *Justice League* movie, Diana has always been the girl in the boys' club.

BY JULES WILKINSON

At the climax of 2016's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot) arrives to save the day. As the drums of her theme music crescendo, Diana throws herself into the battle with the monstrous Doomsday creature, who had pretty much been wiping the floor with Batman (Ben Affleck) and Superman (Henry Cavill). While the sullen super men had spent much of the movie fighting each other, Wonder Woman—in her first-ever live-action flick—shows up and in less than seven minutes manages to get the crew on track.

"It was important that she be the glue of the team," Gadot has said. "In her scenes, I made sure that she would make every one of them feel stronger, loved and capable."

That certainly proved the case in the sequel *Justice League*, a year later. Following that epic battle with Doomsday (where Superman is temporarily killed), Bruce Wayne starts to gather a team of meta-humans to face oncoming threats. While it might be Bruce's idea, Diana is clearly more of a uniter than the broody Batman. Case in point: Diana challenges Bruce's dangerous plan to resurrect Superman. When he responds with petty insults and she literally pushes him back, the Flash (Ezra Miller) immediately comes to



## HER STORY

Current JLA comics writer Robert Venditti told Newsarama of his run, "The next storyline is pulling on the threads of some things that are elements of Wonder Woman's mythology."

her defense. "You know, if she tried to kill you," he says, "we'd all cover for her." Fellow Leaguers Aquaman (Jason Momoa) and Cyborg (Ray Fisher) agree.

More than any of the other meta-humans Diana is aware of the needs of those around her. "She has so many strengths and powers, but at the end of the day she's a woman with a lot of emotional intelligence," Gadot told *Glamour*. "She's loving...and it's all her heart—that's her strength."

Not surprisingly, that means occasionally playing a slightly dour den mother. "Children, I work with children," Diana quips at the crew's frat boy antics. And it's just a given she's subjected to objectification, even from her woke male team.

Her plight is the reality facing many women in the workplace today, but it's something Diana has been dealing with for nearly eight decades. She has been a part of almost every incarnation of the Justice League in DC history, far too often as the lone female. And whether it's being relegated to a token helpmate or battling writer's misogyny it hasn't always been easy.

## NOT ONE OF THE GUYS

In the comics, Wonder Woman's first team outing was with the Justice



As DC Comics' longtime leading lady, Wonder Woman has almost always been a part of its superhero teams—far too often as the only female powerhouse on the roster.

Society of America (JSA). Created by Gardner Fox and Sheldon Mayer in 1940, the Society brought together characters from their solo titles—including Doctor Fate, the Flash, Green Lantern and Hawkman, with Batman and Superman as honorary members—and planted the seed for what would eventually become the DC Universe.

In 1942 (a year after her creation), Wonder Woman fought with the JSA (known during their wartime efforts as the Justice Battalion) against Japanese forces. In a later story, she and the members of the JSA were rocketed into space by Nazi spies on Hitler's command. Finding herself on the planet Venus, Diana worked with the Venusian queen to free the inhabitants from an alien occupation before returning to Earth to help defeat Hitler's spies.

As the JSA superheroes gather after their victory, Hawkman makes her an offer: "The members of the Justice Battalion feel that even though you are now an honorary

member, we'd like you to act as our secretary!" Rather than scream she is waaaay too overqualified, Diana exclaims she's never been "more thrilled!" From then on, she was added to each issue's masthead after the list of heroes as "Secretary to the Justice Society—Wonder Woman."

Thus for years, Diana stayed behind and answered phones while the Society went off to battle the universe's evils. No doubt, misogyny was at play in this writing, but ironically it was her pro-feminist creator, William Moulton Marston, who was partly responsible for Diana's sidelining. At the time her character joined the JSA, she was also appearing in three other titles written by Marston. He wanted creative control over all of Wonder Woman's appearances, but didn't have the time to write her JSA comics. So the story goes she was relegated in the support role to minimize her appearances. And after Marston's death in 1947, WW *did* take on a more prominent role with the JSA as they moved from their New York brownstone to Gotham City and battled not only spies but organized crime and costumed villains.

The absurdity of Wonder Woman serving in the back office was pointed out in the 1980s incarnation of the team. In *All Star Squadron #30*, Diana moves a heavy robot, and fellow superhero Liberty Belle jokes, "Just thinking of the humor inherent in the idea of you—one of their strongest members—merely acting as the Justice League's Secretary!"



#### SOMETHING ABOUT DIANA

"There's a purity to Wonder Woman," director Zack Snyder has said. "She doesn't have the broken past; she's not seeking revenge on people that wronged her. She can just be a hero."

#### THE BIG LEAGUES

Diana found a juicier role as a founding member of the next and most well-known DC superhero squad—the Justice League of America (JLA), created in 1960 by Julius Schwartz and Gardner Fox. The JLA officially formed when an alien race known as the Appellaxians attempted to invade Earth, garnering the attention of Wonder Woman along with Aquaman, Batman, Flash, Green Lantern, Martian Manhunter and Superman. They worked together to defeat the space baddies and after their victory decided to

pool resources against future threats. Once again Diana was often in the peacemaker role. "If you need to stop an asteroid, you call Superman. If you need to solve a mystery, you call Batman. But if you need to end a war, you call Wonder Woman," famed comics writer Gail Simone told the website 13th Dimension.

Over the years, the JLA battled scores of villains, and other superheroes joined—eventually even some women like Black Canary, Supergirl and Vixen. But even given her status as one of the big three, Diana wasn't always treated the

same as the gents. In the late '60s, Diana (well, her misguided writers) made the dubious choice to give up her powers and live as a civilian. When she returned to her role as Wonder Woman a few years later, she was only readmitted to the JLA after completing 12 quests, a greater admissions test than required of any male hero; even in fantasy, the bar is always higher for the ladies!

Likewise, after she made the difficult choice to kill Maxwell Lord to release Superman from his mind control, Diana found herself shunned by some of her teammates, including

Batman. And then of course there were the distracting flirtations with co-workers—including Superman, Batman and Aquaman—which didn't always cast her in the strongest light.

Through it all, Diana has persisted as one of DC's trinity, even when she's clearly better than the boys. It's a role she'll always have, according to Susan Eisenberg, who voiced Diana in several animated series such as *Justice League*. "Wonder Woman has compassion, a sense of fairness and a goodness that resonates deeply," she told Midtown Comics. "She's a heroine for the ages." ★

ONE OF THE SPECIAL...THINGS ABOUT DIANA IS THAT SHE CARES FOR PEOPLE IN THE MOST SINCERE WAY."

GAL GADOT

# QUEEN OF THE COMICS

For nearly 80 years, Wonder Woman has been battling bad guys (and occasionally the patriarchy) in countless colorful comic books.

BY ZAK WOJNAR

The world is embroiled in the Second World War, when United States Army pilot Steve Trevor crashes into Paradise Island—a mysterious uncharted utopia of the Amazons, where men are forbidden. Queen Hippolyta's only daughter, Diana, runs to Steve's aid and insists on personally nursing him back to health. Beautiful Diana fancies herself in love with Steve, the first man she's ever seen. When the Amazons learn Steve is a heroic soldier fighting the evil Nazi regime, Hippolyta decides one of their own should escort him home and assist in the Allies' war effort. An athletic tournament—including a round of "bullets and bracelets"—is held to determine who should venture out into the "World of Man" to help Steve. Though her mother forbids her from competing, a masked Diana triumphs. Accepting the outcome,

the queen gifts Diana with a new moniker, "Wonder Woman," and a red, white and blue outfit steeped in American iconography, and sends Diana off. So goes the introduction of Wonder Woman plopped rather unceremoniously in the middle of a Justice Society story in 1941's *All-Star Comics* #8. The world of comic books would never be the same.

For nearly 80 years since, Wonder Woman has been the queen of the superhero world. Created by Charles Moulton—the pen name for psychologist William Moulton Marston—and drawn by H.G. Peter, the character has undergone numerous reboots and retcons under scores of different writers, editors and illustrators. But throughout it all, she's remained a symbol of justice with her iconic American Eagle armor...well, except during her mod days!

## THE GOLDEN AGE 1941-1955

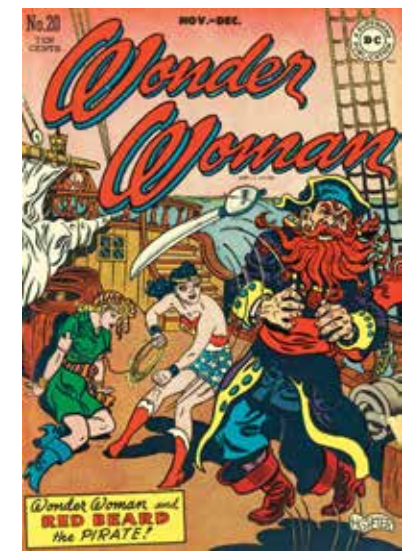
Though her initial appearance was just part of a Justice Society adventure, a month later, Wonder Woman was given her own title—*Sensation Comics* and later *Wonder Woman*—where she'd help Steve battle Nazis and adopted a secret identity (even secret from Steve), as mousy secretary Diana Prince.

An avid feminist, creator Marston believed, "Women have twice the emotional development, the ability for love, than man has," and admitted his character was "propaganda" for a better world run by women. Indeed in *Wonder Woman* #7, Diana even runs for president, albeit 1,000 years in the future.

In contrast to many superhero stories of the time (and even later WW incarnations), Golden Age Wonder Woman tales were often based not around one-on-one battles with villains but on Diana stopping schemes to oppress women. *Wonder Woman* #5, "The Battle for Womanhood," for example, finds Diana facing off against her arch enemy Dr. Psycho—a fascist and misogynist—and foiling his plan "to change the independent status of modern American women back to the days of the sultans and slave markets."

Diana would often advise other women never to let men chain them. This was something Marston's Amazons were well aware of: In a 1942 *Family Circle* interview, he said of their iconic bracelets, "Wonder Woman and her sister Amazons have to wear heavy bracelets to remind them of what happens to a girl when she lets a man conquer her."

From the very beginning, Wonder Woman led with feminine compassion rather than masculine strength. Case in point, villain Paula von Gunther, who first appeared



The first female superhero to really take off in comic books, Wonder Woman appeared in multiple series in the 1940s and '50s. In addition to her titular book, she starred in *Sensation Comics* and often joined the Justice Society of America in *All-Star Comics*.

in *Sensation Comics* #4, was a reluctant Nazi spy who went up against Wonder Woman multiple times. After Diana discovers the true root of Paula's pain—her husband was murdered and her daughter was kidnapped by Nazis—Wonder Woman rescues the child and turns an enemy into a friend; Paula is cured of her Nazism by female compassion and submission to the benevolent authority of the matriarchy. Paula even becomes an Amazon herself!

Marston felt a responsibility to represent his character with proper prestige, and insisted he be

the only person to pen her stories. His instincts were probably right. In 1942's *All-Star Comics* #13, Wonder Woman bravely fights along Hawkman, Catman and others and is asked to join the Justice Society of America...as their secretary, which she eagerly accepts, claiming, "I don't think I was so thrilled in my life." Understandably, Marston was furious and successfully demanded creative control on all of the Wonder Woman character's appearances. Ironically, this actually limited the role Diana played in JSA storylines for years.



Diana picked up some younger fans with "Impossible Tales" featuring Wonder Girl and Wonder Tot. Other Silver Age stories saw a giant Diana as the "mightiest menace," seemingly betraying the U.S. in "Traitor," and thwarting the advances of a trio of wonder men.

**THE SILVER AGE**  
1955-1968

Following Marston's death in 1947, control of Wonder Woman's comic book adventures was handed over to Robert Kanigher, a legendary writer who would become famous for helping create characters like Black Canary and the Flash. Diana's original illustrator died 10 years later, and the dynamic duo of penciler Ross Andru and inker Mike Esposito gave the Amazon a fresh look. The new team expanded the mythos of Diana's upbringing on Paradise Island, boosted her powers and more deeply explored her mythical roots.

It was all going swimmingly until 1954, when Fredric Wertham released *Seduction of the Innocent*, accusing comics of perverting young minds. With her suggestive sexual imagery and patriarchy-threatening themes, Wonder Woman was a major target of the book, which claimed her strength and independence were signifiers of very-taboo-at-the-time lesbianism. (Diana's catchphrase "Suffering Sappho"—a reference to the ancient lesbian poet from Lesbos—probably

didn't help.) Wertham's tome had traction in D.C., eventually leading to the creation of the Comics Code—essentially a comic book equivalent to cinema's Hay's Code for films.

As a result superhero stories of the period became a lot sunnier. Gone were dark gangsters and life-and-death stakes; Batman went from a brooding misanthrope to a lovable rogue. Wonder Woman, meanwhile, found herself in bizarre stories with new rogues including the Gloop, Angle Man and Egg Fu, who weren't exactly the menaces she'd battled before. Her feminist themes were toned down considerably and a great many stories found lovesick Diana fawning over the prospect of marrying Steve. Likewise, the strong Amazons were domesticated, reduced from warrior women to matronly housekeepers.

Wonder Woman did pick up some younger viewers with off-the-wall stories involving Wonder Girl—Diana as an "Amazon Teenager" sporting a high ponytail—and her even younger incarnation, Wonder Tot. (Wonder Girl became so popular, she was

eventually made into a separate character, Donna Troy.) Stories involving Wonder Woman, Wonder Girl and Wonder Tot working together were called "Impossible Tales" and were told by Hippolyta, who would break the fourth wall to explain how multiple versions of the same character could interact. They proved quite popular for a younger audience.

**THE MOD YEARS**  
1968-1973

No long-running fictional character can go 80 years without hitting a few rough patches. Wonder Woman fans almost universally agree her big mistake came in 1968 at the hands of Mike Sekowsky, an acclaimed writer and artist who had earlier co-created the Justice League of America. His take on Wonder Woman, however, is widely reviled as Diana's weakest era.

It was *literally* her weakest era. In *Wonder Woman* #178, a tearful Diana relinquishes her powers and connection to the Amazons to remain in the "World of Man" and help Steve. She even ditches her iconic costume in favor of trendy tunics and a bombshell blowout. "For the first time I'm faced with practical problems like finding a place to live and earning money for food," Diana laments in the issue. She solves the dilemma by becoming a private

investigator and fashion store owner (vocations that were popular on TV shows of the time). In these stories, Diana studied under a blind martial arts master named I Ching. "She became a female James Bond, but without his sexual exploits," wrote critic Joanne Edgar.

The backlash was strong and sales plummeted.

As Wonder Woman was created by a feminist, it's fitting it took another feminist to get her powers back. In 1972, Wonder Woman graced the cover of Gloria Steinem's *Ms. Magazine*, and an essay inside expressed disappointment at Diana's current de-powered state. The situation was quickly rectified. "I remember getting a call from one of the chief executives looking after Wonder Woman," Steinem told NPR in 2019. "He said, 'OK, OK. She's got all her magical powers back. She can fly. She has a magic lasso that makes people tell the truth.... Now will you leave me alone?'"

**THE BRONZE AGE**  
1973-1985

In 1973, I Ching was killed off in *Wonder Woman* #204, a shockingly violent issue that opened with a sniper killing several innocent civilians in addition to Diana's mentor. In a scuffle with the deranged killer, Diana is knocked unconscious. Upon waking, an amnesiac Diana instinctively makes her way to Paradise Island (riding a shark part of the way!), where she spars with a retconned Black sister named Nubia and has her powers restored. With Hippolyta insisting Diana belongs to "two worlds," Diana returns to Man's World to once again fight injustice and—using her secret identity—work at the United Nations.

Getting back into the Justice League wasn't quite so easy. Between 1974 and 1976, Diana had to prove to Superman, Batman and crew she was worthy of reinstatement by completing 12 labors (there was a lot

of bondage). The arc—by newcomer Julius Schwartz—got a boost from the new *Wonder Woman* television show starring Lynda Carter.

Perhaps taking a cue from the show's first season, Wonder Woman's comics returned to their roots exploring Diana's adventures during WWII, but as soon as the show returned to the present day, the comics followed suit and started to skew toward more original stories.

One notable 1978 tale—*Wonder Woman* #250—saw Diana challenged by an upstart in a bikini top named Orana. During the one-

on-one contest, Diana was forced to abandon the competition to deflect Orana's oblivious collateral damage, and was subsequently stripped of her equipment and the title of Wonder Woman. Alas, the so-called New Wonder Woman was killed during her first real battle, leading to a mournful Diana reclaiming her gear.

More good things were in store. In the early '80s George Perez began his run as one of Wonder Woman's chief writers and illustrators in what many consider the definitive version of the character. His Diana didn't shy away from issues of the

With her mojo and her powers restored in the Bronze Age, Wonder Woman battled an Egyptian from another dimension, saved kids from green Nazis, teamed up with fellow super gal the Huntress, and seemingly gave up on Man's World—luckily not for long!

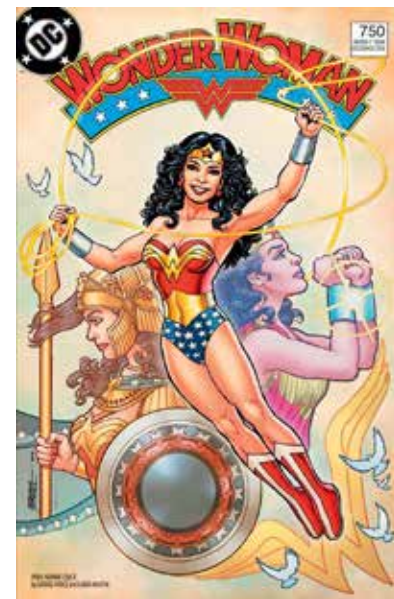
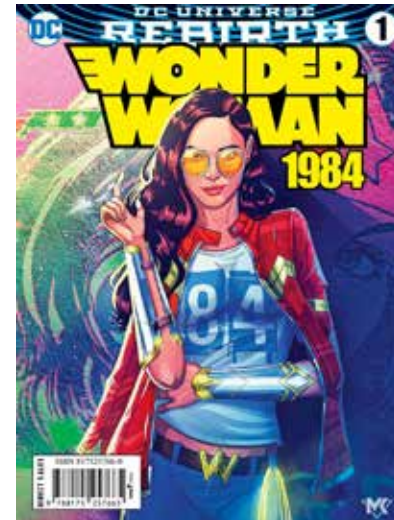


day including nuclear war, teen suicide and feminism, and she got some formidable new rogues like the popular (and scantily clad) Silver Swan. “Wonder Woman is most definitely a feminist, or a humanist, in no uncertain terms,” Perez has said. “Her prime goal in life is to teach peaceful coexistence and equality.” And Perez did right by her for nearly a decade.

**CRISIS CROSSOVERS  
1985-2010**

The modern era of comic books arguably began with *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, a huge cross-title event that scrapped many old stories and characterizations. It showed two versions of Diana, one where she and Steve are married and ascend to Mt. Olympus, and another where she sacrifices herself in battle. Following the event, Perez gave her a reboot in the seven-issue cycle “Gods & Mortals.” This Wonder Woman was more powerful than ever, capable of Superman-style flight and skilled as a warrior on Themyscira (the rebooted name for Paradise Island). It’s the version most similar to that of the 2017 movie.

One of Diana’s most controversial moments came in 2005, as part of another major crossover, *Infinite Crisis*. Maxwell Lord—a slippery DC villain featured in *WW84*—uses his powers of mind control on Superman, turning the Man of Steel into his personal invincible army. Lord sics Superman on the Justice League, where he beats Batman to a bloody pulp, and battles endlessly with Diana. In *Sacrifice IV*, a desperate Diana catches Lord in her lasso of truth, and demands to know how to release Supes. Compelled to tell the truth, Lord explains the only way is for him to die. So Diana snaps his neck like a twig. It was a far cry from the benevolent Diana who used to counsel her villains. While some readers admired the moral complexity, others (and Batman) were none too happy.



Wonder Woman is still going strong today. Recent stories have seen Diana searching for Steve after his plane goes down in the Bermuda Triangle, rocking out in fab '80s fashions, defending her homeland and celebrating and rediscovering her mythical origins.

The *IC* arc was followed by *Amazons Attack!*, a storyline that saw Wonder Woman’s people (and a bunch of mythical creatures) descending on Washington and murdering every male in sight as retaliation for the government holding Diana in a metahuman detention center. Critics described it as “ill-conceived” and “awful.”

Luckily, Gail Simone—previously known for her work on *Birds of*

*Prey*—took the helm of *Wonder Woman* and righted the ship with *The Circle*, a soft reboot of Diana’s character, which built off the previous story, while also making strides to leave it behind entirely with a whole new take on the known mythology of her origins. It was a huge hit, and one of many reasons Simone is a revered name in the pantheon of Wonder Woman writers.

**NEW 52 AND BEYOND  
2011-PRESENT**

The year 2011 saw another rebooting of the entire DCU with the *New 52* event. This time revisions to Diana’s origins made her a demigoddess—the daughter of Zeus and Hippolyta, which provided Wonder Woman with some interesting new friends and foes among the gods. Still other changes to her home culture proved less popular, like the Amazons kidnapping sailors for breeding purposes before murdering them and selling off any resulting male offspring.

The DC Universe would get retooled yet again for *DC Rebirth* in 2016, with many of Wonder Woman’s less-acclaimed *New 52* changes undone.

When famed DC scribe Greg Rucka took over, he added a new twist on WW’s origin. “Themyscira is a queer culture,” he told *Comicosity*, admitting he always imagined Diana and the Amazons would have had female lovers. “Anyone who wants to prevaricate on that is being silly.”

The *Rebirth* story would eventually lead to *Doomsday Clock*, a massive crossover with—and sequel to—the legendary Alan Moore story *Watchmen*.

With the critical and commercial success of *Doomsday Clock* and Diana’s next role in the conspiracy-tinged *Event Leviathan* storyline, there seems to be no end to her reign.

Sure, she’s had her ups and downs, but she’s never more than a soft reboot

away from reminding audiences why her stories have been in print, nonstop, for eight decades. This history was recently celebrated with the release of *Wonder Woman #750*, a mega-sized collection of nine short stories set all across Diana’s history in the comics and Americana.

It’s not hard to imagine Wonder Woman will be around for another 80 years. After all, readers of all ages and genders have been inspired by Wonder Woman. “I think about the people I meet,” Simone told *13th Dimension*. “One woman became an astronaut, because of Diana.”

As long as there are young people looking for inspiration, Wonder Woman will always have a place in the pages of DC Comics. ★

**HEROINES NEED LOVE, TOO**

OVER THE YEARS, WONDER WOMAN HAS BEEN LINKED TO ANY NUMBER OF HOT GUYS (AND EVEN SOME WONDERFUL WOMEN), BUT A FEW TRULY STAND OUT.



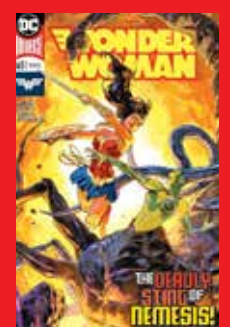
**STEVE TREVOR**  
Diana’s original main squeeze, United States Army pilot Steve Trevor debuted in the same issue as Diana herself, and the hunky war hero has appeared in almost all incarnations of her character. Though others have come and gone, she’ll always be his “Angel.”



**SUPERMAN**  
Don’t tell Lois Lane, but Superman and Wonder Woman have long been a popular pairing—they make the ultimate super couple! Their *New 52* romance was retconned away in *Rebirth*, but we’ll always remember their passion in *Kingdom Come* and *The Dark Knight Strikes Again*.



**BATMAN**  
Writer Joe Kelly had Diana and Batman share a tender kiss in *The Obsidian Age*, just before entering a battle they believe might very well be their last. After they miraculously survive the ordeal, they decide to remain friends, but their sexual tension occasionally flares.



**NEMESIS**  
Introduced as vigilante Thomas Tressor in 1980, Nemesis and Diana didn’t hook up until 2006, when they worked at the Department of Metahuman Affairs. Things get serious and she brings him to meet the Amazons. But they split when she realizes she doesn’t truly love him but wanted kids.





**STRONG SUIT**  
 "People had a chance to see something they hadn't seen before on TV—a physically able, emotionally and psychologically stable, independent woman," Lynda Carter has said.

From live-action icon to cartoon crime fighter, Wonder Woman has a long history on television.

BY NATALIE NICHOLAS

# TV WONDERS

WHILE WONDER WOMAN ONLY MADE HER BOX-OFFICE DEBUT A FEW YEARS AGO, THE CHARACTER IS NO STRANGER TO THE SMALL SCREEN.

**WONDER WOMAN (1975-1979)**

Television gave the world its first live-action Wonder Woman, and star Lynda Carter made the comic book hero into a household name. Over three seasons, her Amazon princess captivated countless viewers, including future *Wonder Woman* film director Patty Jenkins. "Lynda Carter is the woman who, when I was a child, came to life and showed me a woman who is everything. So incredible and strong and fighting, but also sweet and smiling and just and thoughtful and so great," Jenkins said when accepting her *Glamour* Woman of the Year award in 2017.

Phoenix native Carter—also a singer and former beauty queen—played a Diana close to the comic books in looks, personality and backstory. She wore star-spangled hot pants and a golden-eagle-adorned bustier. Her magic lasso made enemies tell the truth, she repelled bullets with her bracelets, and her belt helped her keep Amazonian strength in Man's World. Confident, loyal and protective—and totally

crushing on Major Steve Trevor (Lyle Waggoner)—she had an unwavering belief in justice and a wry sense of humor. And her alter ego, Diana Prince, was impressive as well.

"Diana Prince was how the public got to know who Wonder Woman was," Carter said in the 2013 PBS documentary series *Superheroes*. "She's capable, and she had a personality...you wanted to be her or be her best friend." Carter also noted she personally pushed producers to emphasize Diana's smarts.

The actress also came up with the famous spin that transforms Diana into Wonder Woman. "In the comic book, Diana Prince just left and came back as Wonder Woman," Carter told *Entertainment Weekly*. But in the series, they needed to actually show that change. "I was a dancer, so I said, 'I can do a pirouette or a spin.' They put in the explosion later on."

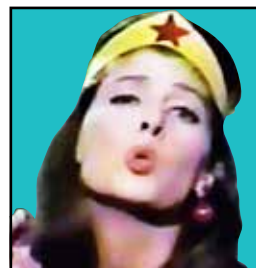
The first season, which aired on ABC, was set in Washington, D.C., during World War II (a bit at odds with the contemporary, funky theme song and all the '70s hair). Navy petty officer Diana served as Steve's

humble secretary, while Wonder Woman thwarted Nazi spies with him in biff-bam action-packed adventures. In Season 2, the show switched to CBS and the action moved to the 1970s (making the series cheaper to produce). Renamed *The New Adventures of Wonder Woman*, it explained that Amazons age slowly, so Wonder Woman was now 35 years older. Waggoner's character was Steve Trevor Jr., son of the original, who worked with Diana in the CIA-esque Inter-Agency Defense Command (IADC).

The special effects were comical, the plots often convoluted and unnecessarily complicated, and while Ms. Prince was still quite fetching in her glasses and bun, quite a few jokes were made about her being mousy. "To look straight at Diana and not be able to say that I recognized Wonder Woman, now that took a bit of acting," Waggoner, who died of cancer on March 17, 2020, once said. And yet, the series was always full of heart and female empowerment.

*Wonder Woman* "was about feminism and women's rights," Carter told *Entertainment Weekly*. The Amazon kicked ass and frequently was the one rescuing Steve. Carter sometimes even did her own stunts, once dangling from a helicopter in the air! But the real message was that all women deserved to be equal—even the ones trying to kill her. Sometimes WW actually admonished her female enemies in mid-battle not to let men push them around. In a commentary on the 2004 DVD of the series' pilot, Carter reflected, in those days, "you had to go to the extreme in order to get someplace in the middle in terms of fighting for women's rights." (All episodes are available on the DC Universe streaming service.)

## OTHER WONDER WOMEN ON TV

**WHO'S AFRAID OF DIANA PRINCE?**  
1967

There were other attempts to bring Wonder to the small screen before Lynda Carter made her famous first spin. Following the huge success of the 1966 *Batman* TV

series, producer William Dozier decided the world was ready for a Wonder Woman series "in the same campy style that turned the Caped Crusader into a national phenomenon," wrote entertainment journalist David Hofstede in his 2004 book *What Were They Thinking?: The 100 Dumbest Events in Television History*. Ellie Wood Walker starred as Diana Prince, and Linda Harrison (who later played Nova, Charlton Heston's mute companion in the *Planet of the Apes* movies) was her Wonder Woman alter ego. The comedy revolved around Diana's insecurities and overbearing mother, but the pilot, Hofstede wrote, "was so awful that only a few scenes were filmed before the studio pulled the plug." (The clip is on YouTube.)

**WONDER WOMAN**  
1974

This TV-movie pilot was ABC's first failed attempt at a Wonder Woman series, starring Cathy Lee Crosby. Her feminism was front-and-center, but otherwise she wasn't much like the classic

comic book character—and not just because she was a blonde. She had no secret identity or superpowers, her tracksuit-inspired costume was highly untraditional, and her bracelets were more like Bond-style gadgets. Diana, working with government agent Steve Trevor (Kaz Garas), chased a villain (Ricardo Montalban) who had stolen secret

code books. As Hofstede wrote, "(The) most popular female superhero in history, Wonder Woman deserved a grand live-action debut, but this wasn't it." (Available on the DC Universe streaming service.)

**WONDER WOMAN**  
2011

Following the success of superhero shows like the CW's *Smallville*, NBC's 2011 *Wonder Woman* pilot seemed like a lock—especially considering its pedigree: Famed writer-

producer David E. Kelley (*L.A. Law*, *Ally McBeal*, *Boston Legal*) wrote it, Jeffrey Reiner (who later worked on *The Affair* and *Fargo*) directed, and it starred Adrienne Palicki, fresh off her success in *Friday Night Lights*. Set in Los Angeles, it depicted Diana as a busy CEO—so busy, she breaks up with boyfriend Steve Trevor (Justin Bruening), who later marries someone else—balancing the demands of running a private crime-fighting operation and being a public role model. Her costume had the traditional bustier, lasso and bracelets but replaced the hot pants with more practical long pants. Lynda Carter herself told *The Hollywood Reporter* that Palicki "looks gorgeous," but some critics declared the outfit tacky and unpatriotic (because it replaced the bustier's golden eagle with a big "W").

NBC ended up passing on the show, and the pilot never aired. "I was devastated when it didn't go and it was expected to. It was one of those things that was shocking," Palicki told IGN. "But in retrospect it was probably a blessing. It would've been a really hard thing to shoot. And I got to wear the costume—I should say, I got paid to wear the costume! So not many people get to say that." Careful fans take note: Pedro Pascal, who plays high-powered businessman Maxwell Lord in *Wonder Woman 1984*, appeared in the pilot as a police ally of Diana's.

## ANIMATION

**SUPER FRIENDS**  
1973–1985

Wonder Woman first appeared on television in animated form, in a Hanna-Barbera hour-long ABC Saturday morning show. "*Super Friends* brought together DC's most recognizable heroes—Superman, Batman and Robin, Wonder Woman and Aquaman—for the first time on television," noted comics news site CBR. This was the classic Wonder Woman (voiced successively over nine seasons by Shannon Farnon, Connie Caulfield and B.J. Ward), a justice-minded warrior with a golden lasso, magic bracelets and handy invisible plane. Season 1 laid out the team's dead-serious mission—"To fight injustice, to right that which is wrong and to serve *all* mankind"—but the show's tone was playful and comedic, even slapstick. Wonder Woman stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the boys as the team dealt with emergencies

ranging from environmental disasters to alien invasions. Ramping up the slapstick were regular shenanigans involving teen-detective sidekicks Wendy and Marvin and *their* sidekick, Wonder Dog.

The next version, *The All-New Super Friends Hour* (1977–1978), dropped Wendy and Marvin in favor of teenage alien superhero team the Wonder Twins, Zan and Jayna, and their pet space monkey, Gleek, who often teamed up with Wonder Woman.

*Challenge of the Super Friends* (1978–1979) introduced the Legion of Doom, classic DC villains that included longtime Wonder Woman enemy Cheetah as well as Giganta, "a nearly forgotten Wonder Woman foe," according to CBR, who had "made her comic book debut in 1944 as an ape who was mutated into a strongwoman." Giganta's *Super Friends* incarnation "could transform into a 50-foot giantess, with strength that matched her stature. She brought those size-changing abilities with her

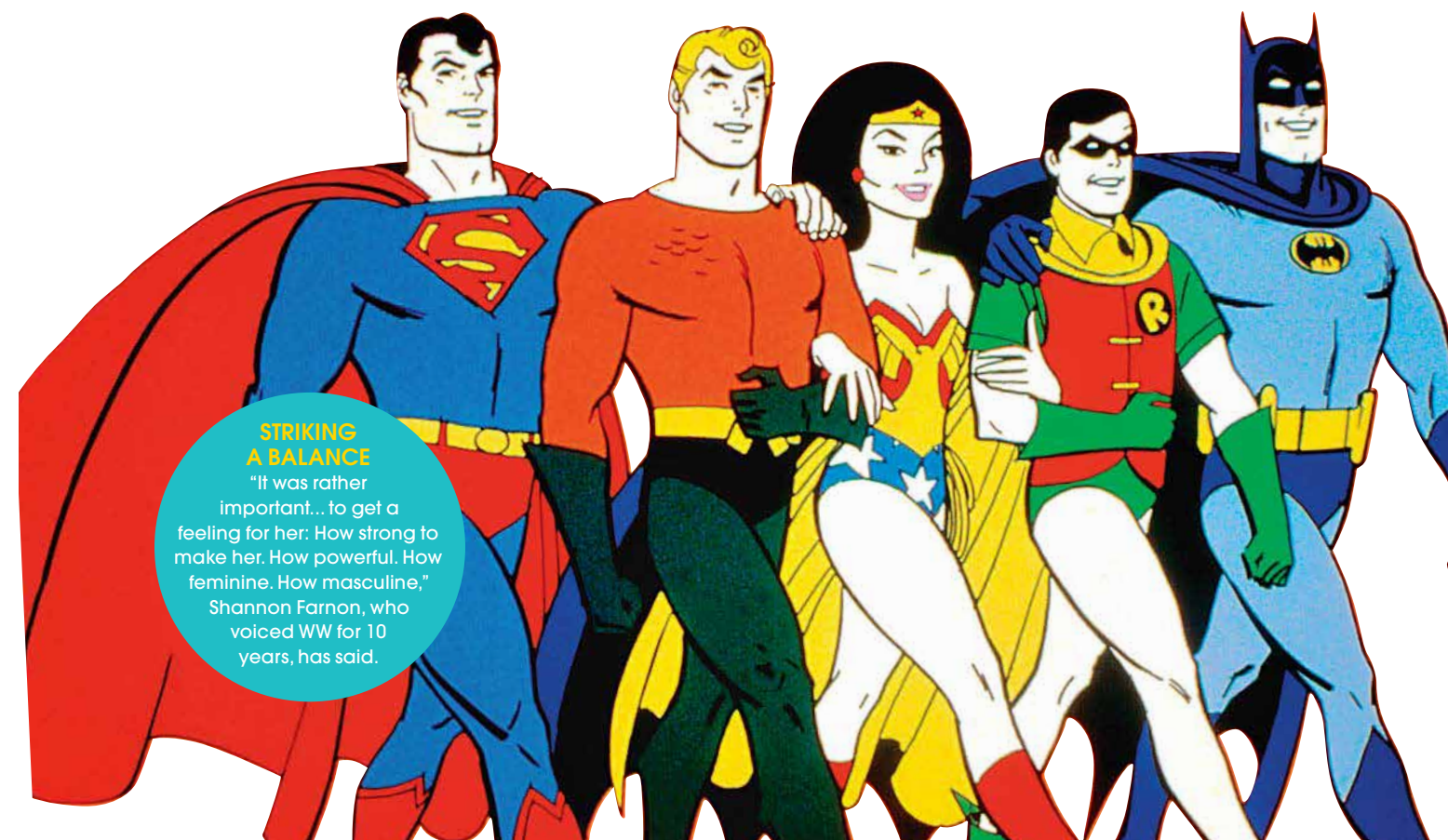
back to the comic books, and they've been with her ever since."

Next up was *The World's Greatest Super Friends* (1979–1980), mainly a repackaging of older stories into 30-minute episodes.

Returning to its original name, *Super Friends* (1980–1982) mixed new shorts with reruns. Wonder Woman highlights include her rumbling with a giant mechanical cobra, and freeing her teammates from some particularly shady rock and roll Space Bandits.

*The Best of the Super Friends* (1982–1983) followed, with half-hour episodes of reruns from prior seasons.

New stories returned in *Super Friends: The Legendary Super Powers Show* (1984–1985), with two 10-minute tales per half-hour episode. Here, uber villain Darkseid often targets WW, first using mind control to make her lure her teammates into a trap, and later trying to abduct her back to his world—but instead kidnapping an android decoy. (Available on Amazon Prime.)

**STRIKING A BALANCE**

"It was rather important... to get a feeling for her: How strong to make her. How powerful. How feminine. How masculine," Shannon Farnon, who voiced WW for 10 years, has said.



**FAVORITE PHRASE**  
 "I do say, 'Great Hera!' quite a bit in the series and it became kind of an ongoing joke during the recordings," actress Susan Eisenberg has said of playing Diana.

**JUSTICE LEAGUE**  
 2001–2004

This critically acclaimed Cartoon Network series featured seven core superheroes in 21-minute episodes full of action, but it also gifted its characters with complex human emotions. Voiced by Susan Eisenberg, Wonder Woman here has an origin that departs from the comics: On Themyscira, she argues with her mother about protecting humans during an alien invasion, and then stealing the lasso, belt and tiara, she sneaks off to Man's World. This WW is feisty; when Green Lantern (Phil LaMarr) doubts her abilities, she snaps, "We Amazons are warriors born. Want to test me?" The series, produced by DC legend Bruce Timm, also strongly implies she has a thing with Batman (Kevin Conroy), even sealing it with a little kiss. "It wasn't a full-blown storyline, but it has hints of a romance between Batman and Wonder Woman," Eisenberg told *The Hollywood Reporter*. "It gave me a different dimension of her other than this princess and this warrior. It gave me this romantic, flirty thing to play."

**JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED**  
 2004–2006

This *Justice League* sequel upped the hero roster to include hundreds of DC characters. It also expanded the depth of stories with arcs encompassing whole seasons. A surprisingly dark season saw the League uncovering the secret government agency Cadmus, and the next took a lighter tone and paid homage to *Super Friends* with Lex Luthor assembling a Legion of Doom. Among Eisenberg's favorite episodes is "This Little Piggy," where Circe turns Diana into a pig, and Batman ends up having to sing to save her. "It had such sweetness in it with Wonder Woman and Batman," she told DC Universe. Another episode saw all the female heroes fall under a villain's mind control, and Wonder Woman goes one-on-four in a brawl with Huntress, Black Canary, Vixen and Hawkgirl.

For years, fans have been clamoring for a series revival, and while Timm recently told a WonderCon panel, "There is hope for a full reunion," Eisenberg has said, "I'm waiting like everybody else."

**JUSTICE LEAGUE ACTION**  
 2016–2018

Cartoon Network's third *Justice League* series featured a huge roster of DC heroes and villains. "*Justice League Action* promises excitement and fisticuffs in its very title, and makes good on it," wrote Dave Trumbore for Collider. And Wonder Woman, voiced by Rachel Kimsey and sporting some serious thigh-high red boots, was front-and-center. Here, Diana defends her homeland from Lex Luthor, with a little help from Batman and Superman. She teams with Batman to save Superman, and later even pairs up with the Riddler to rescue Batman from the Joker. Kimsey delivers "a powerful performance as Wonder Woman," Trumbore noted. "She's easily the most aggressive and enthusiastic superhero on the team when it comes to dust-ups."

**DC SUPER HERO GIRLS**  
 2015–PRESENT

Aimed at a younger audience, this CN series is "fun, sweet and all kinds of adorable," wrote Kate Gardner on *The Mary Sue*. Animated in a frenetic modern style, the series features teen versions of Batgirl, Supergirl and others, who get hero training from a slightly older Diana, voiced by Grey Griffin. Diana is a stern and businesslike leader but has a lot to learn about "normal" teen life. "[She's] the valedictorian, she's the most popular girl in school—and she deserves to be because she's genuinely kind and nice and responsible," explains showrunner Lauren Faust, who retooled the series in 2019. "She aces AP Calculus...but she can't use a phone...she can speak 20 different languages, but she totally butchers slang."



**TEEN QUEENS**  
 DC Super Hero Girls began as a web series and was rebooted last year. "This is a show about balancing your teen life and your super life," director Jenn Kluska explained to CBR.com.

DIRECT-TO-DVD FILMS

**WONDER WOMAN**  
 2009

Nearly a decade before Gal Gadot suited up for the live-action Wonder Woman feature, *The Americans'* Keri Russell voiced the Amazon princess in a full-length direct-to-DVD film from *Justice League* producer Bruce Timm. "One of the things that really intrigued us the most about the whole Wonder Woman mythology is the actual mythology of it," Timm told CBR. "Her character has distinct roots in classic Greek mythology, so we really played that up."

Another thing they played up: the violence. The film, directed by Lauren Montgomery, had action sequences so graphic it earned an R rating. More than anything, however, it was a coming-of-age story, Russell told *Movieweb*. "Diana is at that age where she's breaking away from her mom."

Despite positive reviews, sales were meh and a planned sequel was scrapped, but a commemorative edition was rereleased in 2017.

**WONDER WOMAN: BLOODLINES**  
 2019

This direct-to-video animated film, available for streaming on DC Universe, stars Rosario Dawson (who had played Artemis in the 2009 animated film) in a story that retells Wonder Woman's origin and brings in classic foes like Cheetah and Giganta. Entertainment website IGN noted that Dawson "brings the grounded compassion that the character needs, especially in a film with so much violence," adding that Wonder Woman here "is very much action first and diplomacy later." The movie also stars a version of Doctor Poison, voiced by Courtenay Taylor. So even if the timelines differ, IGN pointed out, *Bloodlines* "works as a thematic link between the first live-action Wonder Woman movie—which featured the young princess battling the cruel and Machiavellian poisons expert (played by Elena Anaya)—and the 2020 sequel, which will see her face down Kristen Wiig's Cheetah." ★

**"[DIANA] WANTS TO EXPLORE. SHE'S WALKING THAT FINE LINE OF CHILD AND GOOD KID, AND WANTING TO BECOME A WOMAN WHO CAN MAKE HER OWN CHOICES AND EXPLORE THE WORLD."**

KERI RUSSELL

# SUPER SISTERS

It's been a long time coming, but female heroes are finally making their presence known in film and television.

BY JULES WILKINSON

In the comics, Wonder Woman broke through the spandex ceiling in the 1940s, establishing herself as a force who could compete with the boys. But it took 30 years for her to take a spin on the small screen, and another four decades before she got her own live-action film.

It's not as if her superhero sistren fared much better. The first memorable roles for ladies of the cape came in the 1960s *Batman* series starring Adam West, where Yvonne Craig played Batgirl and joined the Dynamic Duo in the final season. Craig notably did her own stunts, including riding her Batcycle in a stunning purple costume. In a 2015 CNN interview, she recalled how countless women have told her she'd been a role

model, letting them see "girls could kick butt just like guys."

It was another decade before Lynda Carter's Wonder Woman came to TV. Then there was a forgettable *Supergirl* movie starring Helen Slater in 1984, and Alicia Silverstone put in a brief appearance as Batgirl in 1997's *Batman and Robin*.

Hero lasses made leaps in the early 2000s with the X-Men franchise featuring a number of female mutants including Jean Grey (Famke Janssen) and Rogue (Anna Paquin), though fans were frustrated at the lack of substantial storylines for Storm (Halle Berry), one of the first black female superheroes to appear on screen.

In recent years, more women have finally started getting their proper due. Let's celebrate this superhero sorority of the small and big screens.



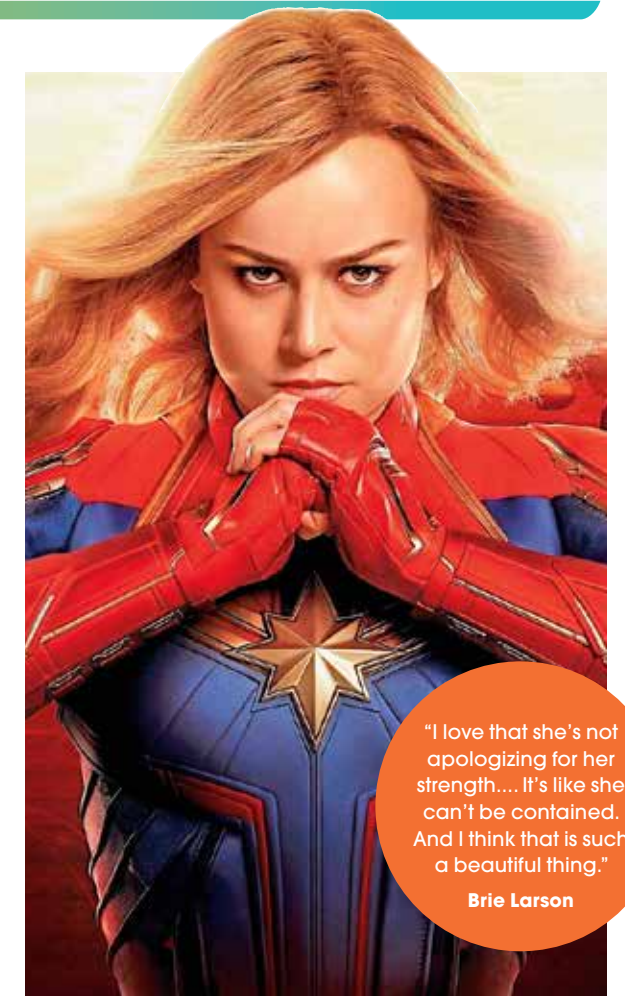
## BLACK WIDOW SCARLETT JOHANSSON



The first female hero in the Avengers cinematic universe, Natasha Romanoff (Johansson) was an assassin who switched sides to work for S.H.I.E.L.D. after Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) saved her life. Fearless despite a lack of powers, "Nat" is driven to do good to "balance the red in her ledger" from her years in the KGB. She first appeared in 2010's *Iron Man 2*, when Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) sent her undercover as Tony Stark's (Robert Downey Jr.) assistant. Since then she's been an integral part of the team: highly valued by Fury, confidante of Captain America (Chris Evans), and the one person who can calm the Hulk (Mark Ruffalo). After Thanos' *Infinity Wars* snap kills half the universe Nat keeps up the biz of world protection, ultimately giving her life. "The finality of it was sad, but I was excited to die with honor," Johansson has said. She's finally getting her own flick, the prequel *Black Widow*, due out in November.

"It's been an interesting journey, to take a character and grow it over these years, and peel the layers back and be able to...grow with this person."

Scarlett Johansson



"I love that she's not apologizing for her strength.... It's like she can't be contained. And I think that is such a beautiful thing."

Brie Larson

## CAPTAIN MARVEL BRIE LARSON



At the end of 2018's *Infinity Wars*, Nick Fury puts out a frantic page to Captain Marvel before fading to nothing, but audiences didn't actually see the hero until her titular movie a year later. An origin story set in the '90s—with a killer grunge girl soundtrack—the flick reveals how test pilot Carol Danvers (Larson) gained astonishing abilities, including strength and flight, when she absorbed the energy of an alien tech explosion. Still, as Larson explained it: "(Carol) is incredible in breaking barriers and doing amazing things even before she had superpowers." Rendered an amnesiac by the blast, Carol is brainwashed by the Kree and the film follows her journey to regain her humanity. Critic Helen O'Hara described the movie as "a powerful metaphor for what could happen if we stop waiting to be told we are enough...this is not another cheap girl-power cliché." Her role in *Endgame* was minor but integral in destroying Thanos. A second solo outing is in the works.

**GAMORA ZOE SALDANA**



As the adopted daughter of uber villain Thanos, Gamora (Saldana) fights for good to make up for past misdeeds, like Black Widow. In *Guardians of the Galaxy*, she reluctantly teams with Starlord (Chris Pratt) and his ragtag team of quasi heroes. But by the franchise's second outing, she and Peter fall in love as they uncover the secrets of his past. In *Infinity Wars*, Thanos sacrifices Gamora for his world-ending plans, but a younger version of Gamora travels to the present and turns against Thanos in *Endgame*. The green badass will return for *Guardians of the Galaxy 3* in 2022.



"(Gamora is) the Abbott to (Peter's) Costello. He's such a humorous character.... And she's the exact opposite: She's uptight, she's grumpy."  
Zoe Saldana

"It's really fresh and really fun to see a woman who knows how to take a joke and roll with things, but also can get the job done."  
Evangeline Lilly



**THE WASP EVANGELINE LILLY**



Daughter of the original Ant-Man and Wasp, Hope Van Dyne (Lilly) is a brilliant scientist. While the first Ant-Man flick saw her in a supporting role to namesake hero Scott Lang (Paul Rudd), she dons the Wasp suit, allowing her to shrink and fly, in 2018's *Ant-Man and the Wasp*. Scott helps her rescue her mother, and the two fall in love. Dusted during Thanos' *Infinity Wars* snap, Hope is resurrected in *Endgame*. "I wanted her to have a signature style little girls... would be able to fall in love with," Lilly has said of her "feminine" fighting.



"She ends up creating a surrogate family within the Avengers...but (she is) still trying to figure out what her abilities are and if using them causes greater good or greater damage."  
Elizabeth Olsen

**SCARLET WITCH ELIZABETH OLSEN**



Wanda Maximoff (Olsen) and twin bro Pietro (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) joined HYDRA to get back at Tony Stark after their parents were killed in an attack with a Stark Industries shell. Later they fought for Ultron, but upon discovering his evil motives, the duo joined the Avengers in the second film. Wanda initially struggles to control her powerful telekinetic and telepathic abilities, but gains skill and confidence. She also loses her brother (and her Segovian accent), falls for Vision (Paul Bettany) and helps save the world. She and Bettany are getting their own miniseries, Disney+'s *WandaVision*, out in late 2020. "They've never quite given Wanda...the screen time to go as in-depth as the comic books," Olsen told *The Insider*. "This is our opportunity."

**HARLEY QUINN AND THE BIRDS OF PREY MARGOT ROBBIE**



Margot Robbie loved playing Harley Quinn in 2016's *Suicide Squad* so much, her production company developed a solo Harley story. *Birds of Prey and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn* (2020) finds the former psychiatrist on a journey of self-discovery once the Joker is out of the picture. Along the way, she manages to make a few super friends: Crossbow-wielding Helena Bertinelli (Mary Elizabeth Winstead); killer-voiced burlesque singer Dinah Lance (Jurnee Smollett-Bell); Detective Renee Montoya (Rosie Perez); and pickpocket Cassandra Cain (Ella Jay Basco). Despite lackluster box-office returns, the film was a critical hit, with *Vulture* calling Robbie an "uproarious celebration of female excess." She will return in the *Suicide Squad* sequel.



"I don't think she's evil, but I don't think she's good either. She's a baddie with her own set of rules that she follows."  
Margot Robbie

"She's young and isolated and so insecure and very alienated—even from the other mutants—because she's so powerful. So there's a real vulnerability to her."  
Sophie Turner



**JEAN GREY SOPHIE TURNER**



Jean Grey, played first by Famke Janssen and later by Sophie Turner, is a major force in five X-Men features. Although she has struggled to control her awesome abilities, Jean often puts herself in danger to defeat an enemy, sometimes with dire consequences. She teaches at Professor X's School for the Gifted, and advocates for mutants' rights. Although she's usually in a relationship with Cyclops, she has an intense connection with Wolverine. In 2019, Jean got a stand-alone film, *X-Men: Dark Phoenix*.

**JESSICA JONES**  
**KRYSTEN RITTER**



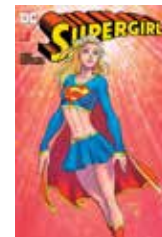
Krysten Ritter starred as a superpowered, hard-drinking P.I. in three seasons of Netflix's *Jessica Jones* (2015 to 2019). A reluctant hero, Jessica is "not really trying to save the city. She's trying to save her apartment," showrunner Melissa Rosenberg has said. "At her core...she wants to do something good.... But there are a lot of personality issues for her that can get in the way." The show won accolades for its exploration of Jessica's trauma after her year-long captivity and abuse at the hands of the sadistic Kilgrave (David Tennant). "That's the journey that we go on with her," Ritter told *EW*.

"She is a former superhero with a really, really dark, twisted past, and that comes back to haunt her from the beginning."  
Krysten Ritter



"She wants to make the world a better place...it's not just about her being this lone hero. She's so much more about being a team and working together."  
Melissa Benoist

**SUPERGIRL**  
**MELISSA BENOIST**



While many superheroes are dark and broody, Kara Zor-El (Benoist), aka Supergirl, is an "infectious joy," the *New York Times* said of the CW hit. Between battling crime and aliens, Kara—using alter ego Kara Danvers—breaks stories for CatCo. And she still finds time for romantic misadventures and hanging with her closest buddies—adoptive sister Alex (Chyler Leigh) and Lena Luthor (Katie McGrath). Fun crossover: The series featured Lynda Carter as the U.S. president.



"She's sort of no-nonsense, very stern."  
Ruby Rose

**BATWOMAN RUBY ROSE**



After she's abandoned by her cousin Bruce Wayne, Kate Kane takes up the Batwoman mantle, fighting crime in Gotham City on her namesake CW series. "She's broody because she's lost everything," Rose told the *New York Times*. "She's got a purpose with Batwoman, and so she's getting lighter." While Kate is an out lesbian, her alter ego also made the decision to come out (in a *CatCo Mag* interview with Kara Danvers, of course!) after an encounter with a teen made her realize the importance of being a role model. Rose left the show in May, but instead of recasting, the CW will introduce a new character, Ryan Wilder, who will pick up the mantle and is "nothing like Kate Kane," according to the network.

**THUNDER AND LIGHTNING**



**NAFESSA WILLIAMS & CHINA ANNE MCCLAIN**

The CW series *Black Lightning* centers around the family of Jefferson Pierce (Cress Williams)—aka Black Lightning—a metahuman who passed super genes to daughters Anissa (Williams) and Jen (McClain). A civil rights activist, Anissa helps other metas targeted by the government's American Security Agency, which created them. She works alongside her dad as a vigilante under the name Thunder. Younger sis Jen, meanwhile, struggles to accept her powers, but eventually joins her father and sister as Lightning. "She's a force of her own, outside of her father," McClain told *Blackfilm*. "She knows what she wants."

"It's cool to see a family be superheroes, and in particular have a black superhero family because we've never seen it before."  
Nafessa Williams



"She's still the same tortured lost soul who regrets what she has been, but the tone is lighter, and there's a lot of room for levity."  
Caity Lotz

**WHITE CANARY CAITY LOTZ**



Sara Lance (Lotz) appeared in the CW's *Arrow* pilot as Oliver Queen's (Stephen Amell) lover... and his girlfriend Laurel's sister! Sara was assumed dead when the *Queen's Gambit* yacht capsized, but reappeared on the island where Ollie got his Arrow education. Once again, she perished, but returned. She partnered with Ollie as "the Canary," but was killed in Season 3. That death also wasn't final; using the Lazarus Pit, Laurel (Katie Cassidy) brought Sara back. Eventually Sara joined a group protecting the timeline in the spinoff *Legends of Tomorrow*, but before leaving Laurel gave her the name "White Canary" to symbolize a new start. Currently, she leads the team hunting magical fugitives. "It's hard to pass up a space-traveling badass," Lotz has said of the role. ★

# BEHIND THE ARMOR

How director Patty Jenkins finally brought Wonder Woman to the big screen.

BY SHARI GOLDHAGEN

In 2010, director Patty Jenkins pitched Warner Bros. an idea for a Wonder Woman movie. Her vision was an origin story that began when Diana was only 7 and took place during World War I. At the time, Jenkins was working as a TV director and was most known for *Monster*, a 2003 indie where a frumped-up Charlize Theron won an Oscar playing serial killer Aileen Wuornos. The studio passed; they had other plans for bringing Wonder Woman to film. But executive producer Charles Roven admitted to *The Hollywood Reporter* he told his daughter, executive producer Rebecca Roven, to stay in touch with Jenkins, “just in case.” That proved an excellent idea.

## YEARS OF FALSE STARTS

For decades, there had been attempts to make a live-action Wonder Woman film. With the huge success of Tim Burton’s Batman movies, interest in



**WORKING WONDERS**  
Director Patty Jenkins and star Gal Gadot go over notes on the set of *Wonder Woman 1984*. “She’s a wonderful person,” Gadot has said of Jenkins.



## SUPER INSPIRING

Jenkins credits Richard Donner’s 1978 *Superman* movie as her inspiration for *Wonder Woman*. “*Superman* was all about you,” she told *Variety*. “It was about you watching and realizing what it would feel like to have great powers and do great things. It was full of love and emotion.”

## AMAZON COUTURE

In creating the outfits for the Amazons, costume designer Lindy Hemming looked back to ancient Greece and “places where there had been societies run by women: queens and warriors.”

But the Oscar-winning costumer also incorporated elements of contemporary women’s athletic wear. “I wanted (the Amazons) to look like they were sporty and strong and they were able to ride horses,” she told *Fashionista*. “Hopefully, they looked elegant, but elegance was not what they were originally striving for.”

a Wonder Woman flick flared in the 1990s, and *Ghostbusters* director Ivan Reitman announced he was going to produce and possibly direct the film. But nothing ever came of it.

Nine years later, *Avengers* writer/director Joss Whedon took a stab. As the creator of strong female protagonists like Buffy the Vampire Slayer, he seemed the perfect fit; he even had a choice for the lead: *How I Met Your Mother*’s Cobie Smulders. And yet, two years later he announced the project was dead:

“I had a take on the film that, well, nobody liked.” (When the screenplay finally leaked online, fans agreed.)

*Mad Max: Fury Road* director George Miller almost got Diana on screen in the JLA film *Justice League Mortal*. Australian model Megan Gale was cast as the hero alongside Armie Hammer’s Batman, but the movie was scrapped during the 2007 strike by writers.

Six years later, another Justice League origin film, *Batman v Superman*, was announced with

Zack Snyder at the helm. For years, actresses including Catherine Zeta-Jones, Megan Fox and Beyoncé had been tossed around as potential Dianas, but the role ultimately went to little-known Israeli actress Gal Gadot. With the project generating buzz, Warner Bros. finally greenlighted a solo Wonder Woman pic in 2014. Execs wanted a woman director, but didn’t call Jenkins, opting instead for Michelle MacLaren, a TV director who’d won acclaim for *Game of Thrones* and *Breaking Bad*.

It was hardly smooth sailing. Charles Roven told Collider they initially had two writers working on different takes of the screenplay, but neither was what the studio wanted. So Snyder and Allan Heinberg collaborated on a story, while MacLaren brought in her own screenwriters. “We had more writers working at the same time than I’ve ever done,” Roven said. “In the history of all the movies I’ve done, it never worked out that way before.” The creative differences finally proved too much for MacLaren, who left the project. And, Great Hera, was Roven glad he’d kept Jenkins’ number.

### TAKING CHARGE

Taking over directing, Jenkins was well aware of the pressure. *Wonder Woman’s* \$150 million budget was the most any female director had ever been given (*Monster’s* budget had been \$8 million), and she would be the first woman to direct a superhero flick, which meant her success or failure could determine whether or not other women would get the opportunity. Instead of worrying about the gender dynamics, however, Jenkins focused on paying homage to a beloved character, telling the *New York Times*, “I was aware that I was the first person of all time getting to direct a Wonder Woman film and that was taken seriously.”

That seriousness meant having a hand in almost every aspect of production. Working with legendary comic book writer Geoff Johns, Jenkins retooled the script—even though neither were given screenwriting credits because of guild rules, Roven told Collider. “We had a basic arc of a story, but scene to scene, it really came together when Patty got involved.”

The first to admit she’s extraordinarily “picky” about her casting, Jenkins’ heart sank when she found they’d already cast the leading lady. “But oh my god, it was one of the luckiest things that ever

happened to me, because Gal Gadot is so magical and wonderful,” Jenkins has said. “They found the best person in the universe.”

For Captain Trevor, Jenkins had her sights set on another Captain—James T. Kirk—or at least Chris Pine, who played Kirk in the 2009 *Star Trek* reboot. “When she pitched me *Wonder Woman*, there was not a chance. It’s not about me—it’s not

wonder man,” Pine told the BBC. “We met at this restaurant, and there was no script, so she pitched the story, and I was like, ‘Yes, all day yes. When do you want me to start?’ That is the joy and beauty of Patty.”

### HIGH STANDARDS

Jenkins’ perfectionism meant long hours for cast and crew, often in 30-degree weather with Gadot

wearing Diana’s skimpy armor. “The shoots were so intensive, six days a week for six months,” Gadot told the *New York Times*. “But what Patty really cared about most was the emotional fate of a fight because we’d do the drills and the choreography, and you can have them down technically, but if the emotion is not specific, then Patty would say, ‘It’s not going to translate as well. Let’s do it again.’”

### IN SCORING POSITION

Composer Rupert Gregson-Williams hangs with Patty Jenkins at the 2017 Hollywood premiere of *Wonder Woman*.



**MUSIC MAN** “I worked with Patty very closely before writing a note,” composer Rupert Gregson-Williams told *The Hollywood Reporter*. “Just spending a lot of time with Patty, getting to know the character from Patty’s point of view, it was a trust thing, really. She didn’t want me writing anything until she really knew I knew Diana.”

runs across no-man’s land defending the Allies. Jenkins had a hard time convincing execs the scene needed to be in the flick at all. Still she persisted, eventually storyboarding the whole sequence herself to show them its importance.

Above all Jenkins wanted to keep things consistent tonally. “I was obsessed with the tone,” she told *Vanity Fair*. “It was the hardest thing.... You start in a fantasy world of women in costume, and then you go to real life, World War I England...and then you end up in the supernatural and then you have a love story. So I brought in all of my [department heads] every week. I would sit and hammer home...we have to be so careful that we don’t veer from one movie to another movie, first of all, and, second, that anywhere that she walks out in a Wonder Woman suit, it just doesn’t look ridiculous.”

It didn’t look ridiculous at all, and that perfectionism paid off in spades. The film grossed nearly a billion dollars—the highest of any film directed by a woman—and opened the door for more female directors in the superhero zone including *Captain Marvel* with Anna Boden and *Black Widow’s* Cate Shortland. And *WW84* looks to continue Jenkins’ legacy. ★

**CGI-ED STAR** When Gal Gadot returned for re-shoots after initial filming, she was five months pregnant with her second child and could no longer hide her baby bump. So the VFX team used a green screen over her stomach and then shrank it back to pre-baby size. Another nifty trick? Gadot was actually wearing sneakers while she ran and they added her wedge boots in post-production.



# BRINGING THE WONDERS TO LIFE

From bullet-repelling bracelets to an impossibly beautiful island: How the special effects team creates Wonder Woman's world.

BY JORDANA WHITE

With a title character who can bound over trucks, take down fellow gods and compel truth-telling with a glowing lasso, you know making a Wonder Woman flick involves some serious visual effects. Check out how a few of them are done!

## MAKING AN ISLAND PARADISE

Diana's homeland of Themyscira is supposed to be an island nation of otherworldly beauty. To create the illusion of this Amazonian paradise in the first film, director Patty Jenkins sought to mix reality with digital effects. They got a head start in the gorgeous department by filming most of the scenes along Italy's stunning Amalfi Coast. Then the visual-effects team kicked it up a notch. "Filming at these locations gave us a basis that we could then augment," Oscar-winning effects director Bill Westenhofer told *VFX Voice*. "We added some Asia photography and

an almost Mediterranean or Hawaiian feel to it. We wanted it to leap out of the ocean and feel lush."

With the base location and real photographs, Westenhofer's team built several aerial plates, then melded all three elements to construct Themyscira's peaks and towns from CGI (computer-generated imagery). And Diana's Paradise Island was born.

## THE TRUTH BEHIND THE LASSO

One of the flashiest weapons in Wonder Woman's arsenal, the lasso of truth presented several effects challenges for the team. The final version of the lasso was hand-animated, then embellished with technical animation in order to allow it to move fluidly with a flick of Diana's wrist, Westenhofer explained. But in order to give the actors and lighting crew a filming frame of reference, they used an LED rope as a lasso stand-in while filming.



### RAD ROPE

"It was really difficult to find a material we could actually use for the flexibility of (the lasso).... We had to hand-weave it, and so it's got this great texture," set decorator Anna Lynch Robinson has said.

## FANTASTIC FIGHT SCENES

When Wonder Woman leaps into action, warding off bullets with her Bracelets of Submission, time slows down. That's also the working of the visual-effects team. To achieve this illusion, the crew begins with previsualization—a digital storyboarding technique that helps direct the way a scene plays out. Next, fighting sequences are shot on 35mm film in both semi and extreme slow motion. Finally, digital doubles are layered into the scenes after filming in order to transition seamlessly from stunt action to CGI-based battle moves. And according to Westenhofer, these digi-doubles are what keeps the action believable. "We always wanted to make sure you always felt you're with Gal," he told *IndieWire*, "even though

it went many times more than her capabilities into stunt land."

## BOUNDING TO NEW HEIGHTS

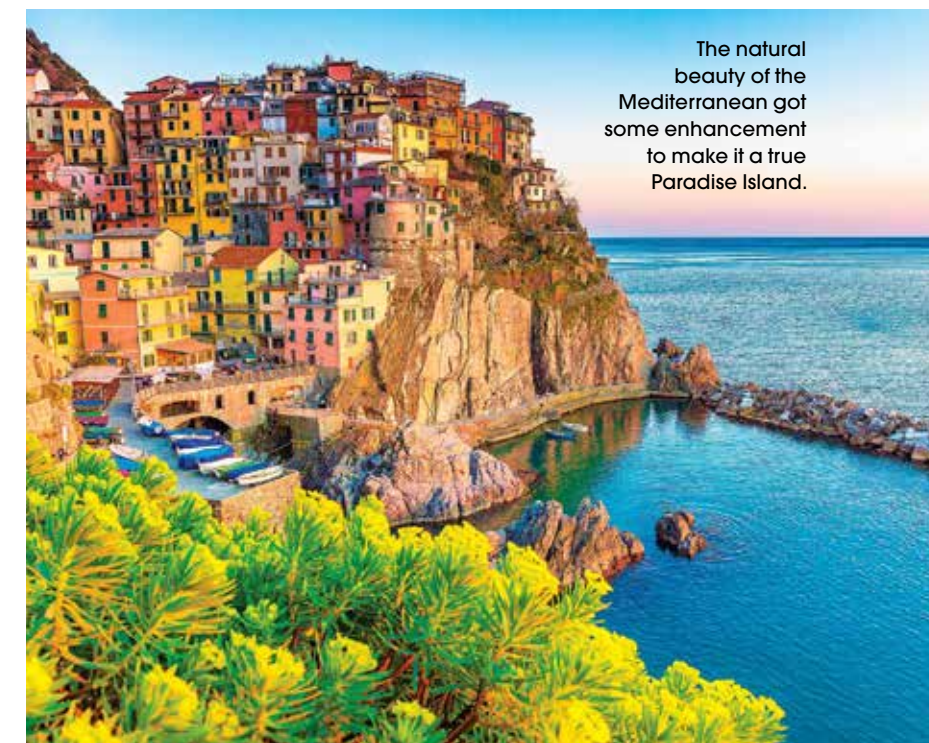
With Cheetah's (Kristen Wiig) introduction in *WW84*, sky-high leaps became an even bigger part of filming. For this second film, John Moffat—who won accolades for his work on the Harry Potter films—was brought on as an effects supervisor, and his work with those kid wizards was good prep. Leaked behind-the-scenes footage shows Wiig, fists raised, knees bent, hooked up to shoulder wires and being pulled upward with serious velocity. It's these wires that make it look like Cheetah is jumping to the roof of the Mexican Embassy in a single bound. Of course in the final film, all the wires will be edited out. ★

## ABOUT THAT INVISIBLE JET

In her very first appearance in the comics, Diana uses an advanced-tech invisible jet plane to fly the injured Steve Trevor back to the U.S. after he crashes into Paradise Island.

To the disappointment of some fans, in 2017's *Wonder Woman*, Diana and Steve went the more conventional route of using a sailboat to get back to Man's World. But director Patty Jenkins herself told Yahoo! Movies at the time, "The invisible jet is very important and ultimately we have to have the invisible jet. That's a very big part of *Wonder Woman*."

It looks as though those with a penchant for transparent transportation could finally get their wish in *Wonder Woman 1984*. Leaked footage from 2018 filming shows Gal Gadot seated in some type of harness that is suspended by wires above a busy city street. She's pulled along above the traffic...almost as if she's flying in an invisible jet. Only the film release will tell for sure!



The natural beauty of the Mediterranean got some enhancement to make it a true Paradise Island.

# GAL POWER

Actress, wife, mother, soldier, beauty queen... maybe Gal Gadot really *is* Wonder Woman.

BY CLAIRE CONNORS

If things had gone differently for Gal Gadot, she might be prosecuting criminals in an Israeli court of law rather than blasting them to kingdom come with her Bracelets of Submission as Wonder Woman. “I never dreamt of being an actress,” she told *Glamour* magazine. Rather she thought she might become a lawyer, but she *does* remember “as a child I really liked to perform and I loved the attention.” Well, Gadot (pronounced Guh-dot) is certainly getting noticed now! Since taking on the role of Diana, Princess of Themyscira, that little attention-seeking Gal—whose name means “wave” in Hebrew—has grown to be a monetary tsunami at the box office: 2016’s *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* earned \$827 million, 2017’s *Wonder Woman* brought in \$821 million, 2018’s *Justice League* made \$657 million and this year’s *Wonder Woman 1984* is expected to be the blockbuster that revives the industry following the COVID-19 cinema shutdown.

## BORN TO BE WONDER WOMAN

Much like her cinematic counterpart Diana, Gadot had a very sheltered upbringing. Born April 20, 1985, she was raised in Rosh Ha’ayin—a small desert town in the middle of Israel—by her mother, a high school gymnastics teacher, and her father, an engineer. “I was brought up in a very Jewish, Israeli family environment, so of course my heritage is very important to me,” she said in an interview with the publication *Totally Jewish*. “I don’t feel like I’m an ambassador for my country, but I want people to have a good impression of Israel. I enjoy telling people about where I come from and my religion.”

Also like the young Amazonian princess, Gadot was incredibly active in various sports—early training for the future superhero! “TV was off-limits,” she told *Glamour*. Her mom taught her how to swim when she was just 4, and encouraged her to

participate in dance, tennis, basketball and volleyball. “I was a tomboy, always with wounds and scratches on my knees.”

## THE RELUCTANT BEAUTY QUEEN

That tomboy blossomed into a bombshell, and when she was 18, Gadot found herself in the running for the title of Miss Israel. Much to her surprise, she won. “I was shocked when they crowned me,” she recalled in *Glamour*. She began modeling until her turn came to compete in the Miss Universe pageant, a title she was *not* interested in pursuing. The tomboy in her rebelled, and she purposely destroyed her chances of winning by showing up late for rehearsals, eye-rolling at inopportune times and—horror of horrors—refusing to wear a formal evening

## PERFECT FIT

“The fact that (execs) found Gal and chose her is a magical gift to me,” Patty Jenkins has said, admitting she might otherwise have overlooked her “perfect” star if she had been able to cast the role herself.





dress to a breakfast event. “No way was I having breakfast in a gown,” she told *Rolling Stone*. “Who needs to wear *that* at 10:30 a.m.?” Not only did the indifferent beauty queen lose the contest, she didn’t even make it to the top 20, or as she puts it, “I victoriously lost!”

After that fabulous fiasco, Gadot gave up modeling and served two years in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF), which is mandatory for the state’s eligible youth. “It’s part of being an Israeli,” Gadot said in *Glamour*. “I wish no country had a need for an army, but in Israel you have to give back to the state. You learn discipline and respect.” She also learned how to be tough, and after a punishing three-month-long boot camp, she became a combat trainer herself, teaching the other soldiers gymnastics and calisthenics. “They loved me because I made them fit!”

While still serving in 2007, she participated in a photo shoot for *Maxim* magazine called “Women of the Israeli Army.” Soon a casting director contacted her and Gadot was called to audition for a “Bond Girl” role in 2008’s *Quantum of Solace*—a part that ultimately went to Ukrainian actress Olga Kurylenko. Around this time, she met her future husband, real estate developer Yaron Versano, at a yoga retreat; they tied the knot in 2008. She quickly settled into marriage and started attending law school at IDC Herzliya college.

**A FAST & FURIOUS CAREER IGNITES**

A year into hitting the books, however, the acting bug bit, and it bit hard. “I was like, ‘Oh my god, this is so much more fun than law school,’” she told *fromthegrapevine.com*. “I fell in love with it and wanted to give it my all.” Gadot gave up law, hired an acting coach, and landed a small role on an Israeli TV series. But it was that grueling military training that earned her that first important role. The casting director for *Quantum of Solace* remembered the pretty

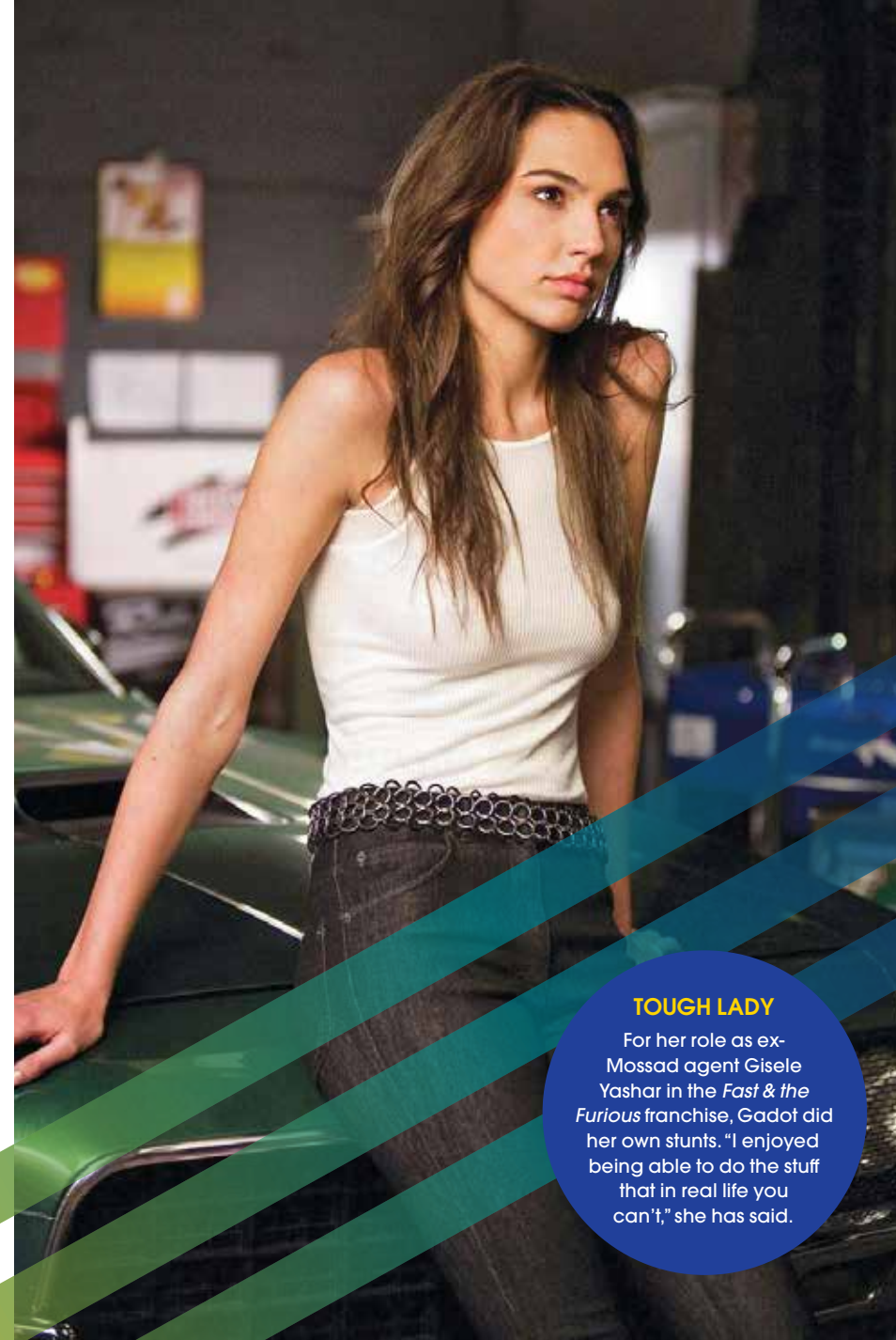
“THE TRUE THINGS [GAL] ACTUALLY HAS INSIDE...ARE THIS INCREDIBLE WARMTH AND CHARM THAT IS ALSO INFORMED BY GREAT INTELLIGENCE.”

DIRECTOR PATTY JENKINS

Israeli soldier from her audition and brought Gadot in for a screen test for the first *Fast & Furious* film. “The director, Justin Lin, said he wanted the character to be a pro at weapons,” Gadot told *forward.com*. “I told him that I used them in boot camp, so I came prepared.” She won the role of sexually aggressive arms expert Gisele Yashar and reprised it in 2011’s *Fast Five*, 2013’s *Fast & Furious 6* and 2015’s *Furious 7*.

**THE SUPERHERO’S BEGINNINGS**

Gadot was four months pregnant with her first daughter, Alma, when she was nearly cast to play a small role in director Zack Snyder’s 2013 Superman movie *Man of Steel*. “If I wasn’t pregnant,” she told the website *Batman News*, “I’d have taken the job.” Timing is everything, because if she *had* gotten the part, Snyder couldn’t have cast her a few years later to be his Wonder Woman in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*. The Hollywood grapevine says that Snyder was considering six A-list actors to play the superhero—including Sandra Bullock—but in 2019 the director dispelled that rumor when he tweeted a tribute to his star, saying, “The day I met Gal, she didn’t know it at the time, but I had already decided she was my Wonder Woman.” For Gadot, it was a dream come true. “When I saw myself



**TOUGH LADY**  
For her role as ex-Mossad agent Gisele Yashar in the *Fast & the Furious* franchise, Gadot did her own stunts. “I enjoyed being able to do the stuff that in real life you can’t,” she has said.

in the mirror wearing the Wonder Woman costume for the first time,” she told *Glamour*, “I was like, Oh my God. Who would have thought me, Gal, from this tiny part of the world, would be here in *this* room in the States in *this* role?”

**SISTERHOOD IS POWERFUL**

Patty Jenkins, who directed Gadot in 2017’s *Wonder Woman* and the upcoming *Wonder Woman 1984*, is grateful for Snyder’s intuition.

“You couldn’t have invented a more perfect Wonder Woman than Gal,” she told *W* magazine. “It sounds strange, but Gal is so clean—so pure—but it’s not for lack of wisdom or information. Wonder Woman stands for beauty, truth, love and goodness. She understands that finding the truth is complicated, but she will always be kind. Like Wonder Woman, Gal is beautiful, kind and strong. It’s a choice to stay so spiritually clean. Gal instinctively understands that choice.”

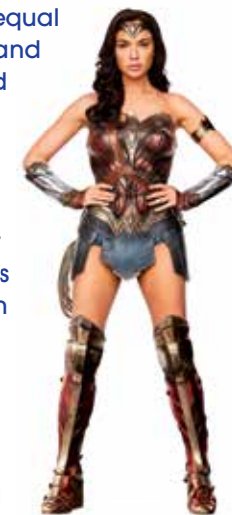
**THE WONDER WORKOUT**

Former fashion model Gal Gadot may have been born with a runway-ready physique, but transforming her body into a strong superhero was still far from a cakewalk. She exercised hard and ate super clean to gain 17 pounds of muscle, as well as to build stamina for her rigorous role.

Her time in the Israeli military was a great prep, but even that was nothing compared to her Wonder Woman workout—six hours a day, five days a week, for six months! “I did two hours of fight choreography, two hours of horseback riding, and two hours of gym work, which,” she said at the time, “is super hard!”

The gym routines, from celeb trainers Thomas Bradley and Mark Twight, were a combo of cardio on the rowing machine for stamina, bodyweight mobility exercises like bear crawls and burpees for core control, and focused breathing and weightlifting for toning.

They also put her on an eating plan with equal amounts protein and vegetables called the “50/50” diet. Breakfast was poached eggs and tomatoes. Lunch and dinner were lean proteins like grilled salmon or chicken with green salads. The biggest tip: Drink a gallon of water every day to stay full and hydrated!



It makes sense. Creating characters who serve as feminist role models had been one of Gadot's biggest goals as an actress, long before she won the role of Diana. When she first started meeting with managers and agents in Hollywood, Gadot told *Interview*, "they always asked the same questions: 'What types of movies would you like to do?' And I always said, I'm very open to all different genres because I'm a very open-minded girl. But eventually, I told them that I wanted to be able to show the stronger side of women. I didn't want to do the obvious role that you see in Hollywood most of the time, which is the heartbroken girl who's waiting to be rescued by the guy, blah, blah, blah. I wanted to do something different. Little did I know that I would land Wonder Woman not long after."

**TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL**

Gadot is truly excited to share Wonder Woman's kindhearted feminist philosophies with the world. "There are such misconceptions as to what a feminist is," she told *Interview*. "Feminism is about equality. I want all people to have the same opportunities and to get the same salaries for the same jobs. I'm doing what I want to do because of women before me who laid the groundwork. Without them, I wouldn't be an educated working mother who is following her dreams. I wouldn't be here."

She's especially thrilled that her daughters, Alma, 8, and Maya, 3, will be watching, and be inspired by, her Wonder Woman films. In fact, Maya may even have gotten some direct Amazonian DNA from Mama Gadot,

since Gal was five months pregnant with her during filming for the first *Wonder Woman* film. "When I choose a role, I always think about whether my daughters can get something out of it when they watch the movie later after they've grown up," she has said. "Or even just to show them that Mommy's doing what Mommy loves to do. And therefore, they can do what they love to do and have a family at the same time. As long as you have your priorities figured out in a healthy way. And it also has a lot to do with my husband, who is really supportive and makes everything so much easier."

Speaking of #relationshipgoals, Gadot's husband, Yaron Varsano, 45, couldn't be more encouraging of his favorite star! On International Women's Day in 2018, he posted the sweetest message on his Instagram page to his superhero wife: "I'm so lucky to be married to a strong independent woman. She is my partner, my friend, my lover. Her goals

are as important as mine. Her dreams are as important as mine. My dreams and goals are equally important to her." The couple is quite a formidable business team as well. They built the Israeli Varsano hotel in Tel Aviv, and in 2015, sold it for \$26 million! They currently reside in Los Angeles and are working on film projects together. Among the items in the pipeline is *My Dearest Fidel*, about a secret relationship between the leader of Cuba and Lisa Howard, a famous (at the time) female journalist for ABC; and an untitled Showtime series based on the biography of Hedy Lamarr, the bombshell actress-turned-brainiac inventor during WWII, in which Gadot is slated to star.

**WONDER WOMAN FOREVER!**

This fall, Gadot will also be appearing in the Agatha Christie-based mystery *Death on the Nile*, about the

murder of a young heiress, and she is filming the adventure comedy *Red Notice* alongside Ryan Reynolds and former *Fast & Furious* co-star Dwayne Johnson. And lucky for us, Patty Jenkins is already deep into preproduction for *Wonder Woman 3*, with Gadot fully on

board. "Whatever I do, I take it very seriously and I do my research and I give it my best," Gadot told *Interview*. Fortunately for movie fans, Gadot chose being an actor over being an attorney but no matter what project she takes on, she's simply wonderful. ★

**"I'M THE TYPE OF GIRL WHO DOESN'T TAKE HERSELF TOO SERIOUSLY...I LIKE TO MAKE JOKES AND HAVE A GOOD LAUGH AND MAKE FUN OF MYSELF!"**

GAL GADOT



**1985** Born April 30 in Israel.

**2004** Crowned Miss Israel at 18.

**2005** Begins serving two years in the IDF as a fitness/combat-readiness instructor.

**2006** Meets Israeli real estate developer Yaron Varsano; on their second date, he promises to ask her to marry him within two years.

**2007** Starts studying international relations at IDC Herzliya college while modeling and acting. After a photo shoot in *Maxim*, "Women of the IDF," she is featured on the cover of the *New York Post*.

**2008** After her first year of college, she tries out and loses the role of Camille to Olga Kurylenko in the Bond flick *Quantum of Solace*. Marries Varsano.

**2009–2015** Cast in her first international film as Gisele Yashar in *Fast & Furious*, a role she reprises over the next six years.

**2011** Gives birth to daughter Alma.

**2016** Creates the character of Wonder Woman in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*.

**2017** Stars in her first stand-alone film, *Wonder Woman*. She gives birth to her second daughter Maya later that year.

**2018** Appears in Maroon 5 video "Girls Like You" alongside Cardi B. Does voice work on *The Simpsons* and *Ralph Breaks the Internet*. Films *Wonder Woman 1984*.

**2020** After delays, *Wonder Woman 1984* is finally set to open. She also stars in *Death on the Nile* (out in October) with Kenneth Branagh, Rose Leslie and Armie Hammer.

**2021** She is filming *Red Notice* about an Interpol agent who tracks the world's most wanted art thief, to be released on Netflix.

# PINING OVER CHRIS

How *Wonder Woman*'s leading man found his place among the stars.

BY SHARI GOLDHAGEN

When Steve Trevor heroically flew off to dispose of poisonous gas in a suicide mission at the end of 2017's *Wonder Woman*, it seemed unlikely Chris Pine would be back for the sequel. So fans were understandably shocked when the first *WW84* preview dropped in late 2019 and there was Captain Trevor—every bit as handsome as he'd been when he kissed Diana (Gal Gadot) goodbye some 70 years before—looking confused in an '80s track suit and fannypack.

"I was not all that surprised," Pine told the BBC about his return. Apparently director Patty Jenkins had shared her idea for Steve's age-defying resurrection when they were in the middle of filming the first flick.



## WAR HERO

In *Wonder Woman*, Pine plays a disillusioned spy who learns to love. "I felt part of something very special, making this film, which I think is much more than a superhero movie," he has said.

But it's more than Steve's clothes that have changed in *WW84*. "In the first movie, I played the world-weary soldier who has seen all the depravity that humankind is capable of displaying," Pine told *Entertainment Weekly*. "In this one, I get to be much more wide-eyed and joyful."

No wonder he was on board. And it didn't hurt that coming back meant spending more time with two of his favorite ladies. "I loved Gal. I loved Patty. I had great fun," Pine has said, which is fabulous, considering the whole reason he got into drama in the first place was to make some friends.

## FINDING HIS PEOPLE

Acting is in Pine's blood. His maternal grandmother, Anne Gwynne, was a B-list scream queen in the '40s; his mother, Gwynne Gilford, worked as an actress before becoming a psychotherapist; and dad Robert Pine is a working actor who co-starred on *CHiPS*. Even big sister Katie has a few IMDB acting credits. But growing up in L.A., Chris steered clear of the family biz. He was busy playing baseball and acing AP classes. "I never had a passion for acting," he told *The Hollywood Reporter*. "I never wanted to do it."

After high school at the private Oakwood School, Chris headed off to the esteemed University of California, Berkeley, to major in English. But for the first time, fitting in proved difficult. "I was terrified and lonely," Pine told *Men's Journal*. "I had no game with women...and I'm not a frat guy. I never gelled with those alpha guys." It didn't help that his self-confidence had been decimated by cystic acne that left him embarrassed and shy. "I needed a place to go.... It could have been the f---ing chess club, as long as there were people that liked me."

Luckily a "Nietzsche-reading" theater major suggested Pine try out for a part in a production of *Talbot's Box*. And that was pretty much the start of the rest of his life.

"I had somewhere to go on Friday nights," he has said, and recalls some of his fondest college memories performing *Orestes* and "trying to do Shakespeare" at Zellerbach Hall.

Pine's interest in the theater didn't wane when he graduated with a B.A. in English in 2002. He continued honing his craft at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts, and then moved back to California, where he took acting classes and did odd jobs to get by. "I worked in a restaurant and in a bakery, and I once worked for my landlord as a construction guy who would repair things in the house. But I was not very good because I do not know a hammer from a screwdriver, so that did not last long," he has said.

His first real gig was a fistful of lines as a drunk frat boy on *ER* in 2003, followed by more bit parts on episodes of *The Guardian* and *CSI*.



**I'M THE KID WHO WAS MADE FUN OF. THAT INSECURITY STILL RUNS INCREDIBLY DEEP."**

CHRIS PINE

THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2: THE ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

He was actually planning to give up and move to NYC when he landed the role of Nicholas Deveroux—Anne Hathaway's love interest in 2004's *The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement*. Reviewers praised his dashing good looks; his acting not so much. But he told *Out*, it just drove him to be better. "It's like kindling in my f---ing steam engine."

JUST MY LUCK



LINDSAY LOHAN



STAR TREK

OUT OF TIME

Captain Trevor is a bit out of place in an '80s mall in *WW84*. "I found this time, the tables had turned on me as a man, in terms of how I interacted and played on the screen," Pine has said.



More rom-coms followed, including *Blind Dating* and *Just My Luck* with Lindsay Lohan (though the two never confirmed it, Pine and Lohan were rumored to have had an off-screen romance). Still a relative newcomer, filming with Lohan—queen of the tabloids at the time—was an eye-opening experience. "It was a real cyclone of insanity, like being around the Beatles," he told *The Hollywood Reporter*, adding it was a learning experience...and the lesson was about to come in handy.

TO BOLDLY GO

In 2007, director J.J. Abrams cast Pine as Captain James T. Kirk in his reboot of the *Star Trek* franchise. Pine almost turned him down to do an art house film. "I was more of a *Star Wars* kid," he has joked. Ultimately, Pine accepted and stepped into the beige tunic made iconic by William Shatner. Instead of imitating Shatner's signature diction, Pine brought his own swagger to the part, and the film—co-starring Zachary Quinto as Mr. Spock and Zoe Saldana as Lieutenant Uhura—was both a

critical and commercial success, spawning two sequels.

Suddenly Pine was everywhere. He had action figures, Armani campaigns and a legion of fans who call themselves "Pine Nuts."

Naturally there were big leading-man roles in flicks like *Unstoppable* with Denzel Washington, *This Means War* with Reese Witherspoon and *The Finest Hours*. But despite his megastardom, he didn't shy away from supporting parts in *Wet Hot American Summer* and *Horrible Bosses 2*. Oh, and he can sing, too! He played Cinderella's prince in the film

*Into the Woods* and recorded a duet with Barbra Streisand.

Reviewers weren't dismissing him as a pretty boy anymore. He won a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for his role in the L.A. production of *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, and *Hell and High Water*, in which he starred alongside Jeff Bridges, was one of the best reviewed movies of 2016.

"It goes back to someone like Paul Newman," Kenneth Branagh, who directed Pine in *Jack Ryan: Shadow*

**“ WE HAVE A... RESPONSIBILITY TO PUT KINDNESS IN THE WORLD. YOU CAN MAKE GOOD FILMS WITHOUT PEOPLE DYING ALL OVER THE PLACE.”**

CHRIS PINE

*Recruit*, told *Out*. "The character actor in the leading man's body—Chris has that." So it wasn't all that surprising that while Hollywood's other hot Chrises—Hemsworth, Evans and Pratt—were signing up to play Marvel heroes, Pine twisted things around and took on the role of Wonder Woman's love interest.

Playing second fiddle wasn't always natural. "My ego comes out, and I told Patty [Jenkins] all the time, 'I want the big f---ing fight. Let me climb something! I want to destroy!'" Pine told *Variety*. "And she's like, 'No. Not about you.' And I'm like, 'God damn it.' She said, 'Not about you' more times making this film."

Ultimately he was thrilled to take Jenkins' direction, and even worked with her again playing a hard-boiled reporter on the TNT 2019 mini-series *I Am the Night*. Clearly she

brings out the best in him. "Chris Pine was so good from premiere to finale he practically made the show worth watching all on his own," wrote *Vulture's* Brian Tallerico, while *Rolling Stone* called Pine "terrific."

Despite his stardom, Pine has always kept his private life private. Since 2018, he's been quietly dating *Peaky Blinders* star Annabelle Wallis. "It's really hard in our business to maintain something," he told *Out*.

Professionally Pine has a busy dance card ahead. There's the upcoming thriller *Violence of Action* out later this year, and he's set to play famed anchorman Walter Cronkite in *Newsflash*. Plus, after stalled negotiations, the fourth installment of *Star Trek* might be a go.

As to whether he'll somehow come back for the third Wonder Woman movie, Pine says it's not likely. "Steve's done. I think Steve's done his bit." But, hey, no one thought he'd be back this time, so who knows? Maybe he'll pop up in *Wonder Woman 3* sporting a man-bun. ★



# HEROES & VILLAINS

Meet the good, the bad and the wondrous supporting stars of *WW84*.

BY JORDANA WHITE

When the leading lady is an Amazonian goddess, it isn't easy to steal the spotlight, but star Gal Gadot certainly has some stunning company with these high-powered players as her friends and foes.



## CHEETAH KRISTEN WIIG

Wonder Woman's rogues gallery isn't as chock-full of household-name villains as some of DC's other heroes. But even those who've never stepped foot in a comic book store have heard of the Cheetah. And with good reason.

She's part feline, part female and has a compelling backstory to boot. Before her furry ferocious alter ego emerged (generally the result of tangling with a cruel god, depending on the version), mild-mannered Dr. Barbara Minerva was one of Diana's closest friends.

Some fans initially gawked when it was announced funny lady Kristen

Wiig had been cast in the iconic role. A veteran of *Saturday Night Live*, Wiig, 46, exploded onto the scene as the co-writer and star of the raunchy adult comedy *Bridesmaids*. What could the actress known for playing the maid of honor from hell possibly have in common with Wonder Woman's arch nemesis? "People are always so surprised when I want to do dramatic stuff," Wiig has said.

And director Patty Jenkins was more than willing to give the comedian a shot. "When we needed someone to go all the way from one end of the spectrum of being funny,

sweet Diana's friend, all the way to a totally different place, we knew that Kristen Wiig would kill it," Jenkins told fans at the Comic-Con Experience in 2019. "And she went beyond our wildest dreams."

Of course, Wiig isn't a complete stranger to action adventures. She's voiced the role of spy Lucy in the *Despicable Me* movies and of dragon tamer Ruffnut Thorston in the *How to Train Your Dragon* trilogy. But next up, she'll be returning to her comedic roots as the co-writer and star of the comedy *Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar*.

## HIPPOLYTA CONNIE NIELSEN

Queen of the Amazons is a pretty impressive title, but *Wonder Woman* wasn't the first time Connie Nielsen played royalty or had a run-in with gods in the movies. The Danish actress' breakout U.S. roles included the daughter of Satan (Al Pacino) in 1997's *The Devil's Advocate*, and Lucilla, Emperor Marcus Aurelius' daughter, in 2000's Oscar-winning *Gladiator*.

But as Hippolyta, Diana's tough-loving but fair mother, Nielsen found something truly regal. Parents everywhere could relate to the character's efforts to shelter her daughter from the cruelties of Man's World, only to reluctantly allow headstrong Diana to venture off on her own path.

"It was a complete and utter pleasure, and I absolutely loved every second of playing her," Nielsen, 54, told *Screenrant*. "I loved every scene I did, every minute on set and off set, too." No wonder she has said, "I would love to do that," when asked about the potential Amazon spin-off

in the works. Even though it might mean more crazy six-hour workouts and marathon sword sessions. "The whole training period was a revelation for me," the *Boss* actress has said. "I've always been athletic, but I had never ever seen that level of training regimen." It was all worth it. As she told *Flickering Myth* in 2017, "Hippolyta is a badass."

Nielsen teamed up again with director Patty Jenkins and co-star Chris Pine for a role in the TNT limited series *I Am the Night*. Next up Nielsen is starring alongside *Better Call Saul*'s Bob Odenkirk in the upcoming thriller *Nobody*.



## ANTIOPE ROBIN WRIGHT

Actress Robin Wright is famous for her award-winning portrayals of complicated, often vulnerable women like Tom Hanks' tragic love interest in *Forrest Gump*. So it was quite a shock for many fans to see her wielding swords and shields and amazing triceps as General Antiope—the Amazon's greatest warrior and Diana's aunt—in *Wonder Woman*.

Getting in Amazonian shape was no small feat for the now-53-year-old actress, who trained for months for the part. "We were trying to do 2,000-3,000 calories a day: raw oats in smoothies with avocado, whole milk and weight-gain powder, three times a day," Wright told ET Online. "We would do horse riding for an hour, then drive from the stable to the studio and do weight training for an hour—heavy weights and short reps to build size quickly."

While Antiope died protecting Diana in the first film, Wright is back in *WW84*, albeit in a flashback sequence. Of course, the actress—

who has two children with ex-husband Sean Penn—is generally used to bigger roles. A soap star on *Santa Barbara* in the early '80s, the blond stunner got her big break as the title character in 1987's classic *The Princess Bride*, and she has been racking up awards and accolades ever since—most recently as the politically savvy Claire Underwood on *House of Cards*.

No matter the size of her part, however, Wright is thrilled to have a role in this particular DC world. "Wonder Woman, who was created in the '40s, what does she symbolize? Justice and equality and speaking the truth," she told *Variety*. "So to be a part of that enhancement, as Wonder Woman's general, it's so great."

## MAX LORD

In *WW84*, Cheetah gets some company in the villain department from Maxwell Lord, played by Pedro Pascal.

In the comics, Lord starts out as a financier for the Justice League International, but takes a turn toward evil after discovering his own superpower: telepathic mind control.

Pascal, 45, is probably best known for playing conflicted journeymen, such as *Game of Thrones*' Oberyn Martell, who met an eye-popping fate while battling

## PEDRO PASCAL

the Mountain, or the titular bounty hunter in the *Star Wars* spin-off *The Mandalorian*. Yet, he is no stranger to straight-up villainy having battled Denzel Washington's Robert McCall in *Equalizer 2*. In addition to raising his profile, the flick also got him used to coming into a series that's already in progress. As he told Collider, "I'm all about the sequels, huh?"

But after years of bit parts, the American actor of Chilean descent is the first to admit he's thrilled to step into existing all-star properties. "[I had] been auditioning since I was 20, working as a waiter, getting theater gigs, doing the *Law & Orders*," he has said.

It was one of those failed projects—a pilot he'd done with Patty Jenkins that didn't get picked up—that put him on the director's radar for *WW84*. The fact that he has an eerie physical resemblance to his alter ego in the comics probably didn't hurt either.

And the actor isn't ruling out future sequels. In fact he has a few ideas for some. "*The Phantom Thread 2*," Pascal joked with Collider, "now that Daniel Day-Lewis is retired." ★

# THE OLD GANG

Jumping ahead seven decades from World War I to the 1980s meant *WW84* had to say goodbye to some memorable characters from the 2017 blockbuster. Gone is the ragtag troupe who helped Diana liberate a grateful village on the European front lines. Secret agent and charmer Sameer (Saïd Taghmaoui); singing sharpshooter Charlie (Ewen Bremner); and Chief Napi (Eugene Brave Rock), a wise smuggler with a heart of gold.

And of course Steve's lovable secretary (and Diana's impromptu personal shopper) Etta Candy (Lucy Davis), whose every scene brought humor and heart. "Etta is unapologetically herself. It took me a long time in my life to be that," Davis, who currently plays Aunt Hilda on *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, told Hello Giggles. "I was so glad to play it, and feel what that was like."

The bad guys from the first film are also so last season. No more Dr. Poison (*The Skin I Live In*'s Elena Anaya), a scientist hell-bent on creating a chemical weapon to foil any gas mask.

Another major player in the first flick was General Ludendorff (*The Aviator*'s Danny Huston), who was modeled after the real Ludendorff, a high-ranking German figure known to get a little unhinged. Huston has said he heavily researched the man to get into the part. "He's a fascinating character."

And finally Sir Patrick Morgan (*Harry Potter* alum David Thewlis), who at first appeared to be an ally to Steve...until it's revealed he is none other than Ares, the God of War who Diana has come to Man's World to kill. Only a god can kill another god, and Diana bests Ares in the climactic battle. Still we can't shake the feeling we haven't seen the last of this guy.

WONDER WOMAN

HOUSE OF CARDS

WW84

THE MANDALORIAN

GAME OF THRONES

EUGENE BRAVE ROCK

EWEN BREMNER

SAÏD TAGHMAOUI

DAVID THEWLIS

ELENA ANAYA

LUCY DAVIS

DANNY HUSTON





# SHE'S GOT THE LOOK

Wonder Woman's outfit has seen many tweaks since 1941 but bracelets have always been in fashion!



**1** Writer/illustrator George Perez gives Diana big '80s hair in 1987. **2** Gal Gadot in *WW84*'s golden armor, 2020. **3** Gadot as Diana in 2017's *Wonder Woman*. **4** No nonsense and an impossible waist in Bruce Timm's *Justice League* animated series, 2001–2006. **5** After creator William Moulton Marston's death, Diana swaps boots for lace-up sandals in 1949. **6** Rileah Vanderbilt in Rainfall Films' *Wonder Woman* short, 2013. **7** Lynda Carter dons a star-spangled cape in *The New Adventures of Wonder Woman*, 1975–1979. **8** Adrienne Palicki's Diana opts for pants in an unaired 2011 pilot from David E. Kelley. **9** A tank-neck and silver twist in 2019's *Wonder Woman: Bloodlines* animated feature. **10** Bronze Age Diana's classic look from 1973–1986. **11** Wonder Woman as a Saturday-morning staple on *Superfriends*, 1973–1985. **12** Cathy Lee Crosby in a Wonder warm-up suit in a 1974 TV movie. **13** Wonder Woman makes her debut in 1941's *All Star Comics* #8 with a design by H.G. Peter. **14** Fierce in her namesake 2009 animated feature from the Timm verse. **15** Spooked in skintight shorts in 1959.



**REVLON X WONDER WOMAN 1984 COLLECTION**

**16** Warrior Glitter Lip Color, \$11. **17** Face & Eye Palette, \$15. **18** Fearless Black Liquid Liner, \$9. **19** Ultra HD Vinyl Lip Polish, \$10. **20** Super Lustrous Lipstick, \$8.50. **21** Transforming Effects Eye Powder, \$10. **22** Kiss Melting Shine Lipstick, \$10. **23** Super Lustrous Nail Enamel, \$6. **24** Liquid Armor Glow Pot, \$12.

**ZALES WONDER WOMAN FINE JEWELRY COLLECTION**

**25** Diamond "Bracelets of Submission" Necklace, \$250. **26** Diamond Lasso Circle Pendant with Theme Charms, \$550. **27** Garnet and Blue Sapphire Symbol Necklace in Silver and Gold, \$400. **28** Diamond Symbol Stud Earrings, \$400. **29** Diamond Symbol Ring in Gold, \$500. **30** Diamond Lightning Bolt Crawler Earrings in Gold, \$400. **31** Garnet and Blue Sapphire Symbol Ring, \$300. **32** Diamond Princess Tiara Necklace, \$450. **33** Diamond Flame Pendant in Gold, \$550. **34** Multicolor and White Diamond Cheetah Ring, \$600. **35** Lasso Wrap Ring in Gold, \$500. **36** Garnet and Blue Sapphire Symbol Stud Earrings, \$300. **37** Diamond Lasso Hinged Bangle in Silver and Gold, \$750.

# A SYMBOL BEYOND A BATHING SUIT AND BRACELETS

Wonder Woman's greatest superpower isn't her strength or speed but her iconic, instantly recognizable message of female empowerment.

BY JULES WILKINSON



**LENDING SUPPORT**

Lynda Carter loves that the *WWTV* show has made her a gay icon. "As far as being supportive of LGBT equality, I've always felt that it shouldn't even be a question," she has said.

It's easy to spot Wonder Woman in the world. Scan the crowd at any feminist rally, and you'll find posters with an image of Diana—dark hair flowing down her back, red bustier with its proud eagle, a look of determination across her face. Check out the little girls in T-shirts with pics of the hero with



A WEE WW

messages like "I can be whatever I want to be" or "Girl Power." There's even an official DC Wonder Woman Run series, where people dress as Diana and take part in fun runs to raise money for local charities.

For more than 75 years, Wonder Woman has been one of the most popular superheroes of all time, but she's also been something more: a representation of the empowered woman and a symbol whose influence extends far beyond the pages of the comic books. It shouldn't be all that surprising, given she was specifically designed to change the world by psychologist William Moulton Marston.

Marston wanted to depict a woman who embodied traditionally feminine qualities alongside strength. He saw the advancement and equality of women as integral to the development of society. "Frankly," he said, "Wonder Woman is psychological propaganda for the new type of woman who should, I believe, rule the world."

But changing the world, even inside her comics, was not always easy. The boys may have let her join the Justice Society, but while Hawkman and Green Lantern were off saving everyone, she stayed back and answered phones as the secretary. And during the 1950s and '60s her warrior nature was watered down and stories often saw her musing more about dreamy Steve Trevor than taking down villains. Nevertheless, she persisted. As author Gladys L. Knight of the book *Female Action Heroes* states, Wonder Woman's continued success has "defied the odds" and is "unparalleled by any other woman in comic books."

Diana attained full feminist icon status (and regained her superpowers) when Gloria Steinem featured her on the cover of her new magazine *Ms.* in 1972 under the banner "Wonder Woman for President." Steinem explained the reasoning behind her choice in the

introduction: "Wonder Woman symbolizes many of the values of the women's culture that feminists are now trying to introduce into the mainstream: strength and self-reliance for women; sisterhood and mutual support among women; peacefulness and esteem for human life; a diminishment both of 'masculine' aggression and of the belief that violence is the only way of solving conflicts."

Diana remains a huge role model for feminists. At any of the Women's Marches that have swept the U.S. since 2016, you'll find females young and old with signs proclaiming: "We are all Wonder Women," "Women will save the world," or "Time to bust out the golden lasso of truth."

**A LGBTIQ TRAILBLAZER**

Feminists aren't the only ones who've seen themselves reflected in the Amazon princess. As a woman raised in an all-female society who never saw a man before Steve, it's not hard to see why many believe that Diana has had romances with other Amazons. And it's no wonder that many in the LGBTIQ community are drawn to Diana, realizing that she's also an outsider in an often hostile world. Marston once said, "Comics speak, without qualm or sophistication, to the innermost ears of the wishful self," which may explain the connection many marginalized people feel to her.



ACTIVISTS

RACERS

FANS



In 2016, the USPS issued Wonder Woman stamps showcasing her different looks.

The 1970s eponymous TV show starring Lynda Carter was where many queer kids fell in love with Diana, helped along by the series' camp aesthetics and disco theme song. Jon Weir in the Irish LGBTQI publication *GCN* wrote that as a boy of 10, his life changed when he saw "its most iconic sequence...the 'wonder spin,' [Carter] unknowingly helped me to realize that being your true self, superpowers or not, was pretty cool."

Two decades later, Carter herself discovered her huge queer fan base and has become an active ally to the community, speaking out against bigotry and serving as the grand marshal of multiple pride parades. "This is a group of very special people, and to have honor among them is a thrill," she told *Freedom for All Americans*. "It makes me unbelievably happy to be included in the 'family,' so to speak."

Likewise every Pride Parade features people dressed in a version of Diana's instantly recognizable costume. Countless drag queen performances have been inspired by her, most famously Tandi Iman Dupree, whose "Wonder Woman" performance at the Miss Gay Black America pageant in 2001 went viral.

Wonder Woman's own queerness was officially established in 2016, when writer Greg Rucka confirmed he and series artist Nicola Scott wrote



**FASHION STATEMENT**

Donning Wonder Woman's iconic tiara and red and blue costume has come to symbolize being a strong independent person...or sometimes pet.

**“THE AMAZON CODE OF HONOR...IS A HUMANITARIAN AND ALTRUISTIC ONE...BASED ON STRENGTH AND PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE.”** FEMINIST PHYLLIS CHESLER

their books assuming Diana had had relationships with women. "A denial of her queer identity," he told the *L.A. Times*, "would hurt the character and take away her heroism."

**STILL GOING STRONG**

Dressing as Wonder Woman has broad appeal not limited by gender or background, as attendance at any sci-fi convention will illustrate. Celebrities from Kim Kardashian to Oprah and her dog have dressed as the Amazon. Legions of cosplayers create their own interpretation of the warrior—bombshell, steampunk,

even zombie. Popular Hijabi cosplayer Dania told the BBC she loved dressing as WW because "she's empowered and empowering."

Wonder Woman's 75th anniversary in 2016 saw her commemorated with numerous books, special issue comics, and a set of stamps by the U.S. Postal Service. She was even appointed as U.N. ambassador for gender equality, although she was dropped after two months following an outcry that, as a fictional character, her appointment trivialized real human suffering.

Wonder Woman has thrived for nearly 80 years and the effusive

reaction to the 2017 movie and anticipation for *WW84* is evidence she is as relevant today as she was when she started battling Nazis and misogyny in the 1940s.

Her importance might be best summed up by the kindergarten teacher who tweeted to Patty Jenkins about how the Wonder Woman movie impacted her students, saying it "changed the way these girls and boys thought about themselves and the world in a week."

Marston's granddaughter Christie Marston has said countless fans from around the world and all walks of life had confessed to her what a profound impact Diana had on their lives. "She's *real* to people," she wrote in *The Hollywood Reporter*. "A hero. An inspiration. A role model who actually *does* make the world a better place. A comfort. A friend." ★

**MERCIFUL MINERVA!**  
SINCE HER INCEPTION, WONDER WOMAN HAS BEEN NO STRANGER TO CONTROVERSY.

Drama has followed Diana like a lovesick fanboy since the beginning. With the ink barely dry on the first issue of *Sensation Comics*, the National Organization for Decent Literature put Wonder Woman on a blacklist of "publications disapproved for youth" as Diana was "scantily dressed." Soon after, anti-comics crusader Fredric Wertham complained in *Seduction of the Innocent* that with her lasso and bracelets Wonder Woman had a bondage subtext (which is actually true!) and that her strength and independence made her a lesbian and thus a terrible influence. His work had a profound effect on the industry, which subsequently developed the Comics Code Authority to self-censor.

In the 1970s, Gloria Steinem was angered when comics writers had turned Diana into a "powerless 1950s car hop," more interested in fashion and romance than justice. Steinem lobbied the then-head of DC Comics, Dick Giordano, until Wonder Woman got her mojo and costume back.

For decades, Diana took heat for her overly sexy "bathing suit," but when she stepped out in a new costume of long pants and a leather jacket designed by DC's Jim Lee in 2010, the reaction was brutal. "She's gone from Paris to Poughkeepsie," fashion publicist Kelly Cutrone

shared. "This is NOT a good fashion look." DC replaced the outfit in less than a year.

When Wonder Woman was made a United Nations ambassador for gender equality in 2016, the decision was fiercely condemned. "It's frivolous...it reduces an extremely serious human rights problem experienced by half of the world to a cartoon," Anne Marie Goetz, PhD, professor of global affairs at NYU, told NPR. Diana was removed from the post.

A year later, the 2017 film was a huge box-office and critical success, but that didn't inoculate *Wonder Woman* from the outrage machine. Some took issue with the film for being too feminist, while others complained it wasn't feminist enough! Still other critics felt statuesque Gal Gadot wasn't muscular enough. And casting Israeli Gadot got the film banned in Lebanon.

One surprising naysayer was *Terminator* director James Cameron, who called praise of the flick "misguided." "(Wonder Woman) is an objectified icon; it's just male Hollywood doing the same old thing!" he told *The Guardian*. "It's a step backwards."

Director Patty Jenkins tweeted back there was "no right and wrong kind of powerful woman...and the massive female audience who made the film the hit it is can surely choose...their own icons of progress."

IT'S ALL

# GREEK

TO ME!

Like many comic book heroes, Wonder Woman's roots to mythology run as deep as the River Styx. Should you find yourself lost in all the gods and monsters, don't fear: We've got your CliffsNotes!

BY JULES WILKINSON

In ancient times, people went to see plays about great heroes and painted their stories on everything from water jugs to grand public buildings. Not too far off from the way we read the comics, flock to the multiplex to see the latest superhero blockbuster, and decorate our homes with Superman and Batman collectibles. "They're our Greek myths," proclaims Laurence Maslon, co-author of *Superheroes!: Capes, Cowls, and the Creation of Comic Book Culture*.

Throughout the ages, people have told stories to entertain and amuse, to reinforce societal norms and morality, and to inspire us. When some charged comics with corrupting kids in the 1940s, *Wonder Woman* publisher Maxwell Gaines turned to psychiatrist Dr. Lauretta Bender, who had encountered

the exact opposite effect in her work with traumatized children. She found kids used comic book characters and stories for coping and comfort. Bender concluded comics were "the folklore of this age," fulfilling the role in society that legends and fables have always held.

Natalie Haynes, writing for the BBC, explained that for the ancients, "heroes and gods acted as a kind of bridge between what they could understand and explain, and what they could not." This remains true for modern superhero stories; while we may not be looking to them for explanations of earthquakes, like our forebears were, we are looking for ways to live our best life.

But even for a superhero, Wonder Woman's ties to mythology are particularly strong. Over the past eight decades, many of the

characters in her stories have been closely based on the Greek gods and heroes. As Maslon notes, *Wonder Woman* is "a veritable graduate course [in Greek mythology]." Here's a cheat sheet to some of the Herculean hitters in *Wonder Woman*. And if you think wild things happen in the pages of comics, then hold on, because Greek mythology can make comics canon look tame!

**ACHILLES** When this hero was born, his mother was terrified he would die, so she found a way to protect him—holding him by the ankle, she dipped him in the River Styx, which granted him immortality. The fiercest of warriors (remember an impossibly buff Brad Pitt clad in leather armor in *Troy*?), he fought alongside his rumored lover Patroclus against the Trojans. Never once did he lose in battle, but he died when Paris shot him with an arrow in the ankle—the one spot he was vulnerable. In the comics, he's rumbled with Wonder Woman on several occasions.



BRAD PITT IN *TROY*



**AMAZONS** Unlike a lot of other mythological creations, Wonder Woman's people—the Amazons—actually did exist, and archaeologists have found plenty of evidence they were indeed fierce women. They rode horses, hunted game and fought like men of the day. According to some scholars, the Amazons even smoked pot and drank! The myths claim they were founded by Hippolyta's mother, Otrera, who left an abusive marriage and trained herself to fight with sword and bow. She taught these skills to other women in her village, and her tenacious troop of ladies eventually traveled, freeing women as they went. They finally settled in the legendary Themyscira on the River Thermoion on the edge of the Black Sea. The Amazons took part in the Trojan Wars and were involved in many exploits with both heroes and gods.



**ANTIOPE** In *Wonder Woman*, this Amazon was a loyal sister to Hippolyta, but in mythology their relationship is slightly more complex. A daughter of Ares, Antiope is said to have either eloped or been abducted by Theseus, a hero who accompanied Heracles on his quest to obtain Hippolyta's belt. When the Amazons tried to rescue her, she was accidentally killed by her fellow Amazon Menalippe.



**ARES** The Big Bad in Wonder Woman's 2017 flick and many of her comic books, Ares is indeed a rabble-rouser in mythology. Son of Zeus and Hera, this god of war was quite unpopular amongst the other gods due to his temper and, unsurprisingly, his love of conflict. His penchant for violence was not due to a hatred of humans, however, and he fought on the side of the Trojans in their war against the Greeks. Many tales don't end well for Ares. In one, he was bested by another strong woman—Athena—who knocked him out with a rock. In another tale two giants trapped him in a bronze jar for a year!



DANIEL SHARMAN IN IMMORTALS

**ARTEMIS**

The goddess of the hunt and protector of young girls, Artemis was the daughter of Zeus and Leto, and twin sister of Apollo. Coincidentally she is known in Roman mythology as Diana, although there is little to suggest she inspired the character of our Diana. And in many comic books, she and Diana find themselves on opposing sides.



**ATHENA**

In addition to being the goddess of wisdom and war, Athena is also associated with many other areas of endeavor including law, strategy, mathematics and the arts. Her parentage is unique among immortals, as it is said Athena was born straight from Zeus' forehead. She aided many of the great heroes including Heracles, Perseus and Jason. In some versions of the comics, she's the one who breathed life into Wonder Woman—essentially making her Diana's second mother.



ISABEL LUCAS IN IMMORTALS

**DEMETER**

The goddess of agriculture and fertility, Demeter is said to cause winter during the three months of the year when her daughter Persephone must spend time with husband Hades in the underworld. In the comics, she grants Wonder Woman her strength.



**HEPHAESTUS**

The blacksmith to both gods and heroes, this god of the metallurgy forged many famous weapons and pieces of armor. He was said to be ugly and used a cane to walk because of his crooked feet, and yet he married the beautiful (and often unfaithful) Aphrodite. Hephaestus created the first android—a giant bronze automaton called Talos, who guarded the island of Crete and who was given life by ichor, the blood-like fluid of the gods. In the comics, he made Wonder Woman's bracelets and armor.



**HADES**

God of the underworld, where the souls of humans go after death. With Zeus' approval he abducted Demeter's daughter Persephone in order to marry her. Hades was a stern but not cruel ruler over the realm, feared only by the living who were in no hurry to meet him. A version of Hades—sporting his Roman name Pluto—was written by Wonder Woman creator William Moulton Marston and first appears in the comics in 1946.



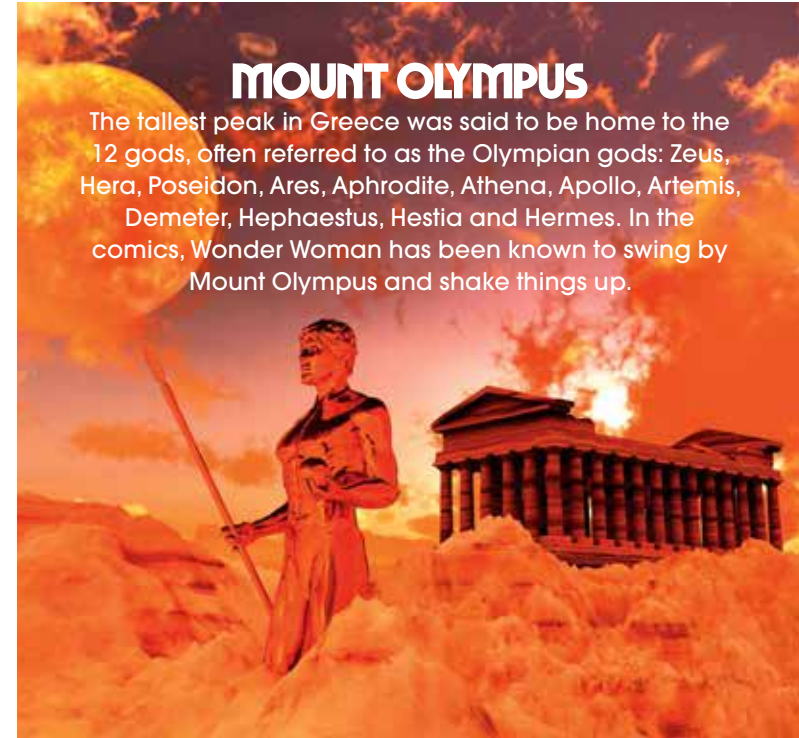
RALPH FIENNES IN WRATH OF THE TITANS

**HERA** Queen of the Olympian gods, Hera was the wife of Zeus—as well as his sister. Hera was the goddess of marriage, the family and childbirth. She was known for her harsh vengeance against Zeus' lovers and any mortals who displeased her. No wonder Wonder Woman often exclaims, "Great Hera!"



**HERACLES** Better known as Hercules, this son of Zeus and the mortal woman Alcmene is one of mythology's most famed heroes for his strength, endurance and sexual prowess with both women and men. Hercules had many adventures, fought in wars and battled monsters. He didn't have it easy, as Hera hated him and tried to kill him from the time he was born. She eventually drove him mad, during which time he murdered his own family. To atone he took on a series of 12 seemingly impossible quests—which he completed. A version of the character appears in *Wonder Woman* starting in 1941.

**HIPPOLYTA** The queen of the Amazons (and Wonder Woman's mom in the comics), Hippolyta was the daughter of the god Ares and Otrera, the founder and first queen of the Amazons. Ares gifted his daughter with a magical golden belt (think Wonder Woman's golden armor), which became the object of one of the 12 quests set for Heracles. When Heracles arrived in the land of the Amazons, Hippolyta agreed to give him her belt. However, Hera told the other Amazons that Heracles planned to kidnap their queen and they attacked Heracles' ship. In the ensuing battle, Heracles killed Hippolyta and escaped with the belt.



**MOUNT OLYMPUS**

The tallest peak in Greece was said to be home to the 12 gods, often referred to as the Olympian gods: Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Ares, Aphrodite, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Demeter, Hephaestus, Hestia and Hermes. In the comics, Wonder Woman has been known to swing by Mount Olympus and shake things up.



DANNY HUSTON IN WRATH OF THE TITANS

**POSEIDON** God of the sea and rivers, Poseidon's anger caused earthquakes. He lived in a golden palace under the seas, and was often at odds with his brother Zeus, who he once tried to overthrow. He sided with the Greeks during the Trojan War. A version of this sea god has been a staple in the DC Universe since 1940.

**ZEUS** The king of all the gods, Zeus is also the god of weather, fate and the law. He often used a bolt of lightning as a weapon. Zeus led the gods in battles against the Titans and later the giants who wanted to rule over Earth. Zeus is often seen as delivering justice, although he was cruel in his punishments of those who crossed him. Along with his brother Poseidon, Zeus once flooded the world and wiped out most of humankind because he was angry at their decadence. Though married to his sister Hera, Zeus was promiscuous, to put it mildly, and he had relationships with other gods and countless humans. His favorite trick was to transform himself into an animal in order to gain a woman's trust. In many versions, he's credited as being Wonder Woman's dad; it's a complicated father-daughter relationship. ★



LIAM NEESON IN CLASH OF THE TITANS

**WARRIOR WOMEN: OTHER PORTRAYALS OF AMAZONS**

Since their origins in antiquity, the Amazons have appeared in the popular stories in many ages including Chaucer and Shakespeare. Their legends have shaped multiple stories of female societies and warrior women. You can see the influence of their mythology on modern stories in tough women from Ellen Ripley

and Sarah Connor to Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Lara Croft. The term Amazon itself has come to refer to a strong, fierce woman. In the early 20th century, suffragettes in the United Kingdom struggling to win the right to vote were frequently involved in clashes with police. To even the odds, many of the women were taught jujitsu by Edith Garrud.

In order to protect their leader Emmeline Pankhurst, Garrud formed a group of 30 women known as the Bodyguard, who hid clubs in their dresses and were dubbed "Amazons" by the press. In 1917, a silent movie comedy called *The Amazons* told the story of a wealthy woman who wanted sons, so she raised her three daughters

as boys. Shenanigans ensue. From the 1950s onward, there was a whole subgenre of exploitation films featuring Amazons with titles like *Love Slaves of the Amazons* and *War Goddess: Amazons of Rome*. The 1973 movie *Battle of the Amazons* warned: "Hell hath no fury like 10,000 women scorned!" The Amazons play key roles throughout many plot lines in the TV series *Hercules: The Legendary*

*Journeys* and *Xena: Warrior Princess*. As a fierce fighter, Xena herself was clearly influenced by the Amazons, although it is her companion Gabrielle who becomes an Amazon princess. In the show, Amazons are a tribe of skilled fighters who live in the forest and swing between the trees. More recently, Amazons have appeared in some form on TV shows such as *Supernatural* and *Legends of Tomorrow*. Ladies, keep fighting on!



LUCY LAWLESS IN XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

MIRTA MILLER IN BATTLE OF THE AMAZONS

»  
DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA



U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING



WHITE HOUSE



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE



HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN



MCPHERSON SQUARE



DAR CONSTITUTION HALL



LINCOLN MEMORIAL

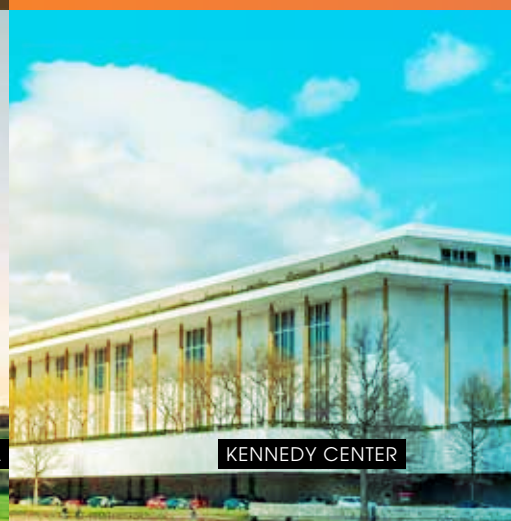
»  
GEORGETOWN  
AND  
ALEXANDRIA



GEORGETOWN



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



KENNEDY CENTER

VACATION LIKE A  
**GODDESS**

Want to travel in the style of an immortal Amazon? Check out some of the amazing locations used during filming in the Wonder Woman franchise.

BY SHIRA LEVINE

**A**round the globe, Wonder Woman is an instantly recognizable phenomenon, so it's only fitting director Patty Jenkins' Wonder Woman films would be shot at some of the most gorgeous and glamorous locations in the world.

For those who want to travel like Wonder Woman, good news! You don't need an invisible jet to check out the historic capital cities and remote tropical paradises that serve as the films' backdrops. But an updated passport is a must and a boatload of frequent flyer miles sure wouldn't hurt!

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

While Wonder Woman spent the majority of the first film dodging bullets in Europe during World War I, *WW84* finds our heroine spending a good chunk of time in **Washington, D.C.**, and the surrounding areas. With neoclassical architecture to rival her own Paradise Island, it's no wonder Diana finds herself so at home here.

Start at the **U.S. Capitol Building**. While Diana is too busy lassoing bad guys to fully appreciate the grandeur, you can take it in at a more leisurely pace with one of the guide-led tours Monday through Saturday that

includes visits to the Crypt, Rotunda and National Statuary Hall. In addition to the stunning architecture, visitors are shown the film *Out of Many, One* as a reminder of how we came together as a nation to govern ourselves. While there's no charge, tours book up quickly, so it's vital to reserve your spot online at [tours.visitthecapitol.gov/cvc](https://tours.visitthecapitol.gov/cvc). To experience the famed Senate and House Galleries, you'll need to reserve separate passes. Call the Senate Gallery at (202) 224-0057.

Diana also makes a stop at the **White House** and you can take a tour there as well. While the personal



residence of the prez and the fabled Oval Office aren't on the schedule, visitors are taken through much of the East Wing including the Blue Room, Red Room and Green Room, as well as the State Dining Room, which has hosted countless world leaders and a few wonder women. You can also catch a peek at the Rose Garden, and Secret Service agents are stationed throughout and are available to answer your questions. Scoring tickets can require a bit of super heroics, however: You must contact your congressperson's office and make a formal request.

The film finds Diana working a day job at the **Smithsonian Institute**. This famed collection of 17 U.S. museums on the **National Mall** could keep any tourist busy for months—whether it's the first ladies' gowns at the Museum of American History or the design marvels at Cooper Hewitt. For contemporary art, there's the **Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden**, where the *WW84* trailer reveals aficionado Diana teaching a clueless Steve about modern art. "It's all art," she tells him, adding that the trash can he is suddenly admiring is merely a trash can. But don't worry about repeating Steve's folly, the free museum offers multiple daily tours as well as children's programming and is open every day except Christmas.

Other *WW84* locations to check out include the **Penn Quarter** neighborhood, where you can take in the **National Portrait Gallery**, then cool your heels at a local bar; General McPherson's statue in **McPherson Square**, as well as **DAR Constitution Hall**, where every U.S. president

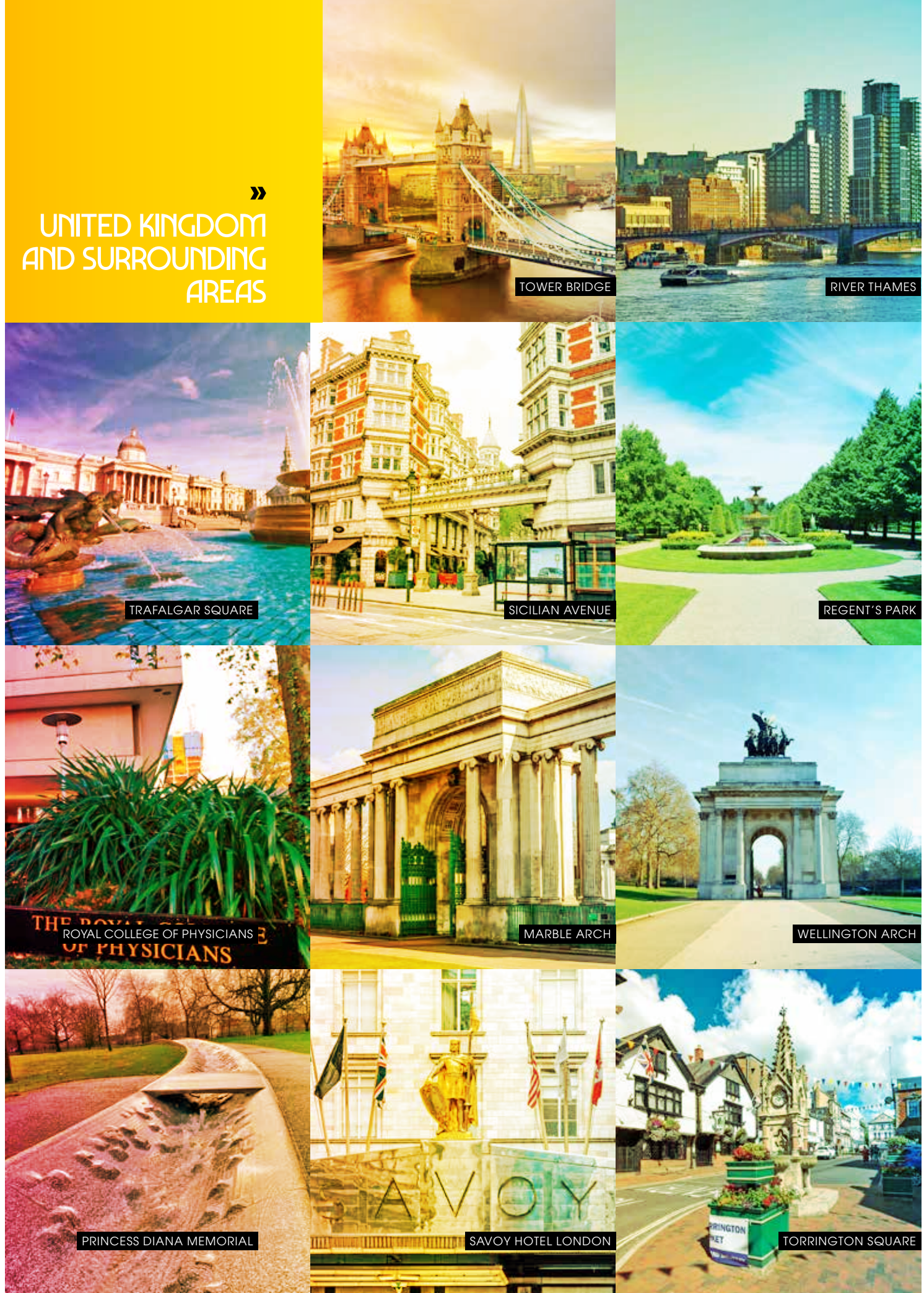
since Calvin Coolidge has attended at least one event; and the always awe-inspiring **Lincoln Memorial**.

**GEORGETOWN AND ALEXANDRIA**

While the mall where Diana springs into action in the *WW84* trailer is actually a recently closed Virginia shopping center, you can check out the exceptional shopping and dining in several other filming locations in the **DMV** area (District, Maryland, Virginia for the unaffiliated). The posh neighborhoods of **Georgetown** and **Alexandria, Virginia**, both offer notable pedestrian-friendly stretches. There are a number of bike, Segway and walking tours that cover the highlights, or take a foodie tour in Georgetown that hits up five eateries. Fun Fact: Lynda Carter—who starred as Wonder Woman in the TV show of the 1970s—lives in **Potomac, Maryland**, and can often be seen performing with her band at the legendary **Kennedy Center** ([kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org)).

**UNITED KINGDOM AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

When Steve brings Diana into "Man's World" via sailboat in *Wonder Woman*, one of the first things she sees is **London's** famed **Tower Bridge**. Via a cruise on the **River Thames**, you can create their journey and admire the iconic hybrid bascule and suspension masterpiece. Or you can take the route of mere mortals with a day pass on a hop-on, hop-off city tour bus and check out Londontown's famed sites ([bigbustours.com](http://bigbustours.com)). Follow Steve



“TRAFALGAR SQUARE WAS HUGE. WE HAD 500 IN THE CROWD AND WE HAD TO DRESS A ROAD WITH PERIOD CARS.”

WONDER WOMAN LOCATION SCOUT GEORGETTE TURNER

and Diana's path through historic **Trafalgar Square** and **Sicilian Avenue** to purchase your own wardrobe change—like Diana did when she swapped her Amazonian threads for a more Western silhouette. (We prefer shopping the seven streets of **Seven Dials** or the requisite Oxford, Regent, Carnaby, Bond and Mayfair streets for top wares.)

While the **London** of the first film was cold, dreary, sooty and gray, the city has plenty of lovely greenery, some of which was used for filming in *WW84*. Multiple locations were used in **Regent's Park**—part of the Royal Park system of London in the northwest part of the city—that boasts the largest playing field in all of London, as well as a beloved zoo. Interiors were filmed in **St. Andrew's Place Apartment Buildings**, as well the **Royal College of Physicians** located down the road. Founded in 1518 by a Royal Charter from King Henry VIII, the RCP has a long and storied history shaping public health, and Diana would no doubt marvel at their impressive collection of medical artifacts and records, as well as the lush surrounding gardens. You can check it out, free of charge, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ([replondon.ac.uk/guided-tours](http://replondon.ac.uk/guided-tours)).

Shots of Kristen Wiig's Barbara Minerva fighting off a male attacker were filmed on location in the largest of the Royal Parks, **Hyde Park**. Cheetah's misadventures aside, the park is a must on any London visitor's list with statues and sculptures including the **Grand Entrance**, Jacob Epstein's **Rim**, Decimus Burton's **Wellington Arch** and the **Memorial to Princess Di**. Not to mention the royal **Kensington Gardens**. Though the *WW84* props team turned the John Nash-designed park into a winter festival in early fall, Hyde Park is actually home to a popular Winter Wonderland Festival, and has long been a sight for concerts and many types of protests.

A more see-and-be-seen hot spot is the **Savoy Hotel** in **Central London**—another *WW84* location. Book early for the premiere, as a room for two currently runs \$655 a night. Otherwise, a cocktail at the bar of **Kaspar's** or tea in the **Thames Foyer** can satisfy a Savoy experience quite nicely for a fraction of the price (thesavoylondon.com). Grab a JUMP e-bike and hit up some other *WW84* locations such as the **University of London** and **Torrington Square**—all selfie-perfected spots for fans eager to #WW84 their stories and images.

When it's time for a day trip, catch a train from **King's Cross Station**, located in the borough of Camden. Like Diana did in the first flick, you can marvel at the hustle and bustle of the crowds and grab an ice cream.

A two-hour jaunt away is **Duxford**, where the **Imperial War Museum** resides, and some *WW84* action was shot. The collection of aircraft is impressive and requires a decent amount of walking. Think: Eurofighter Typhoon, Concorde and SR-71. The Battle of Britain hangar has Spitfires, Lightnings and BF 109s. The land museum boasts a bunch of tanks—including a German Panzer—all of which make rumored appearances in the new flick. The free museum is open every day 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Castle and fort hopping are pretty standard for superheroes, royalty and the hoi polloi alike. Just outside London in **West Essex** lies the medieval 11th-century **Arundel Castle**. In the first flick, this historic site—which was built in 1068 and restored in the 18th and 19th centuries—was where Steve and Diana attempt to infiltrate a General Ludendorff-hosted soiree. While our heroes had to fake accents and steal formal wear to gain access, you'll have a much easier time if you come when it's open to the public: Tuesdays to Sundays April through November (arundelcastle.org).



## OUR ROLE IS TO LOOK FOR THE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES THAT HAVE SOMETHING EXTRA THAT MAKES IT STAND OUT."

WONDER WOMAN LOCATION SCOUT GEORGETTE TURNER

Then check out **Tilbury Fort** down the road. In the film, this is where the military readies its launch of Dr. Poison's deadly gas, and where Diana and Ares engage in their epic showdown. While you're unlikely to witness a god vs. demigod battle royal, there is a museum of British and German weaponry and lovely gardens. Check the site for operating days and prices (english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/tilbury-fort).

### PARIS

From London you can ride the **Chunnel to Paris** with the speed of Hermes to check out the world-renowned **Louvre Museum**. In *Wonder Woman's* opening scene, it's where Diana Prince is working when she's delivered a briefcase by Wayne Enterprises' security guards. Check out more than 380,000 objects of art including the "Mona Lisa" and "Venus de Milo." Open every day—except Tuesdays—from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission prices vary, so check out the site (louvre.fr/en.com).

### CANARY ISLANDS

Superheroes appreciate good weather just as us mere mortals do, so it's not surprising that *WW84* shot some scenes in the **Canary Islands**, which boast 600 miles of idyllic coastline and some otherworldly vibes come nightfall when a blanketing of white light appears. Dubbed the next Majorca or Ibiza, the collection of islands is not yet spoiled by DJ culture and spring breakers. Still, Michelin chefs have made their mark culinarily here, and there are some stunning golf courses and bottle service culture thrives within the numerous chic beach clubs. If you

don't have an invisible jet, a more accessible way to touch down onto this volcanic archipelago is by flight or ship—it's a top cruise destination from Europe.

**Tenerife and Fuerteventura**—two of the seven main islands—get a cameo in *WW84* as well. The former is home to **Teide National Park**, where scenes from *Star Wars* and *Planet of the Apes* were also filmed. The latter is ideal for windsurfing, and famed for its attention to Canarian architecture and notoriety for lace making.

Hit the parks! Filming took place at **Fuerteventura's Corralejo Dunes National Park, Parque Holandés, El Jablito, La Oliva** and the **Jandía Natural Park**.

### SPAIN

Shooting of *WW84* wrapped in the town of **Almeria** in **Andalusia, Spain**, another year-round good-weather spot. The desert landscape has made the town a much-desired film location throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Today Almeria is still the site of three Wild West movie sets: *Mini Hollywood, Fort Bravo* and *Western Leone*. The latter is named for Italian film director Sergio Leone of Spaghetti Western fame. Because most of us are not subjected to wearing a star-spangled bathing suit, it is A-OK to take advantage of the fact that this southern town was deemed the Gastronomic Capital of Spain in 2019.

While tooling around this old country, check out other *WW84* locales including the fortified Moorish complex of **Alcazaba**. This stone fortress—whose name translates to "Citadel"—was built in



KING'S CROSS STATION



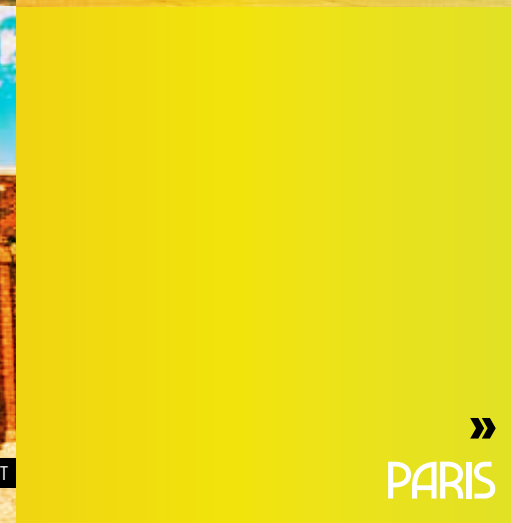
IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM



ARUNDEL CASTLE



TILBURY FORT



PARIS



LOUVRE MUSEUM



CANARY ISLANDS



TENERIFE



TEIDE NATIONAL PARK



EL JABLITO



LA OLIVA



JANDÍA NATURAL PARK

» SPAIN



ALMERIA



MOORISH COMPLEX OF ALCAZABA



WALL OF JAYRAN



CHURCH OF SAN PEDRO

» ITALY



RAVELLO



VILLA CIMBRONE IN RAVELLO



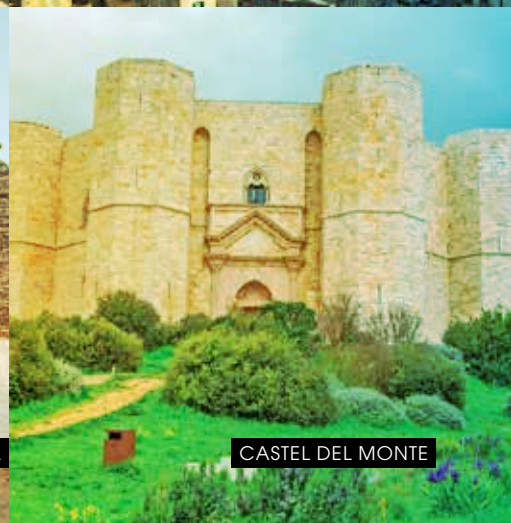
MATERA



PALINURO



APULIA



CASTEL DEL MONTE

1057 during the Muslim era and has played a part in history ever since. Visiting hours vary by season, so check out the website before you go ([malagaturismo.com/en](http://malagaturismo.com/en)). And take some pics by other recognizable locations from the film, like the 11th-century-built **Wall of Jayran** and the neoclassical **Church of San Pedro** built in 1848.

ITALY

The unspoiled beauty of Themyscira really does exist...in **Italy**. The **Amalfi Coast** of today is a playground for the glitterati as well as the aspirational glitterati. If you have the means (a lot of means), consider a stay at the five-star **Villa Cimbrone in Ravello**. Originally built in the 12th century, the hotel has been meticulously maintained and is brimming with historic busts and fabrics. World-renowned for its epic gardens and stunning view of the Mediterranean coastline, it has hosted countless world leaders and royalty. No doubt all of that majesty and drama is why Jenkins chose to film several scenes there ([hotelvillacimbrone.com](http://hotelvillacimbrone.com)).

If that's too rich for your blood, you can still check out Ravello. The town dates back to the 400s, when it served as shelter from barbarian invasions as the Roman Empire fell.

The southern town of **Matera** is another historic spot that was used to create Paradise Island in the first flick. A UNESCO World Heritage site and subterranean city made of stone, it is known to be the third-oldest continuously settled city in the world (after Jericho and Aleppo). **Sassi**—the historical center—boasts a park and multiple Rupestrian churches. With such biblical vibes, it was also a location for *The Passion of the Christ*.

The stunning beach town of **Palinuro** was used to film the scenes where Steve crashes his plane and into Diana's life. The town is also famous for an extensive cave system boasting several blue grottoes—



**[WW84 IS] SO AMBITIOUS AND SO COMPLICATED TO SHOOT...WE PREPPED IT FOR SIX MONTHS AND SHOT IT FOR ALMOST EIGHT MONTHS."**

GAL GADOT

where the water glows from an underground light source. You can check them out via a boat tour.

While hopping through tiny old towns, check out **Apulia**. Three hours from Naples this town houses the 13th-century **Castel del Monte**. In the flick it's where Diana scales the wall and steals her

WW outfit and "God Killer" sword before leaving the island. In our world, this storied citadel and castle is open to the public but check before you go because hours vary by season. Bon voyage!

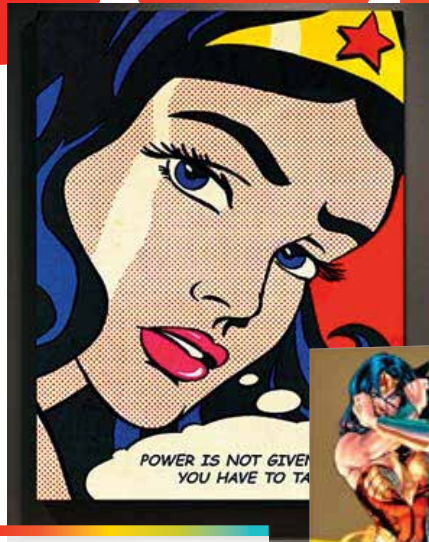
(Because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, make sure to double-check site schedules and policies). ★

ON THE SET

A Warner Bros. flick, much of *Wonder Woman 1984* was filmed at the studio's 200-acre **Leavesden** headquarters in southeast England's **Herfordshire**. A former aircraft factory and airfield, the studio is most famously the site of the Making of *Harry Potter* Tour. While permanent behind-the-scenes exhibitions of the film franchise are the biggest draw, there is plenty of memorabilia from the studio's other productions, including *WW84* ([tickets.wbstudiotour.co.uk](http://tickets.wbstudiotour.co.uk)). Of course, back in **Hollywood**, **Warner Bros. Studio** has its own exceptional tour that highlights a repertoire of heroic cinema ([wbstudiotour.com](http://wbstudiotour.com)).



# SUPER MARKET



Take the power with this hip pop-art print available in four sizes. [inktuitive.com](http://inktuitive.com), \$89-\$529

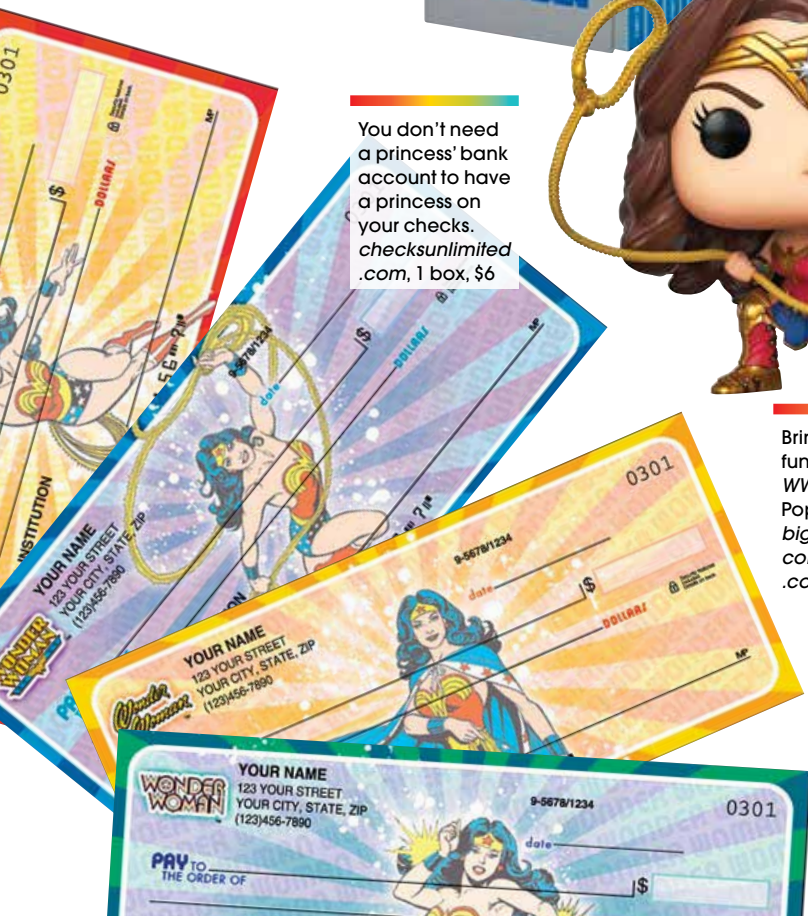
Relive Diana's adventures in this four-volume collection of her comics. [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), \$45



A mini backpack is the perfect place to stash secret-identity stuff. [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), \$74



You don't need a princess' bank account to have a princess on your checks. [checksunlimited.com](http://checksunlimited.com), 1 box, \$6



Bring the fun with a WW84 Funko Pop! figure. [bigapplecollectibles.com](http://bigapplecollectibles.com), \$9



Take saving your wine to heroic levels with this Wonder Woman bottle stopper from the Decorative Company. [etsy.com](http://etsy.com), \$15



After a hard day fighting crime in a corset, slip on a comfy silk-printed robe. [superherostuff.com](http://superherostuff.com), \$40

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Cook like a super chef, or at least look the part, with this kitchen apron. [superherostuff.com](http://superherostuff.com), \$20



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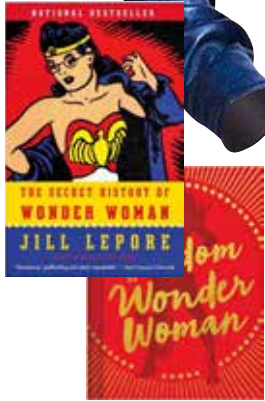


Win the ugly Christmas sweater contest with "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" Sweater. [merchoid.com](http://merchoid.com), \$55



WONDER WARES

Read on! *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* (\$16) or *The Wisdom of Wonder Woman* (\$13). [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com)



Make the other bikers jealous with a Wonder Woman-inspired leather jacket by Film Jackets. [fjackets.com](http://fjackets.com), \$109

No need to stack the deck when you've got an Amazon princess on your playing cards. [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), \$6



Smell like a goddess with Wonder Woman perfume from Jean Paul Gaultier. [perfume.com](http://perfume.com), \$89



Wonder Woman may be larger than life, but you can get a life-size Diana cutout. [allposters.com](http://allposters.com), \$35



Game night goes Greek with Challenge of the Amazons, where teams try to defeat Diana's famous foes. [target.com](http://target.com), \$35



This 12-ounce flask is perfect for slipping into your alter ego's trench coat while mingling with civilians. [superherostuff.com](http://superherostuff.com), \$18



Leather and metal red-and-gold boots are no average kicks. [wholesalehalloweencostumes.com](http://wholesalehalloweencostumes.com), \$124



1



2



3

COOL COLLECTIBLES

Get a load of these fine figurines.

1 Steve and Diana are ready to rumble, by James Marsano. [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), \$233. 2 For big spenders, Prime 1 Studio's Diana on Horseback (\$3,599) or in Amazon armor (\$999). [sideshow.com](http://sideshow.com). 3 Really go inside Diana with a Mighty Jaxx figure. [sideshow.com](http://sideshow.com), \$99. 4 This golden gal is limited edition. [bigbadtoystore.com](http://bigbadtoystore.com), \$225. 5 A demigod goes Tiki god vinyl figure from Teekeez. [bigbadtoystore.com](http://bigbadtoystore.com), \$12. 6 Lynda Carter lovers will adore this stunningly accurate Maquette figure. [bigbadtoystore.com](http://bigbadtoystore.com), \$260. 7 This limited-edition Diana by Tracy Tubera is a fierce figurine. [bigbadtoystore.com](http://bigbadtoystore.com), \$140. 8 Go retro with this vintage-inspired 8" Cheetah doll. [bigbadtoystore.com](http://bigbadtoystore.com), \$27.



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8

# WONDER WOMAN A-Z

## FROM ARES TO ZEUS, CHECK OUT SOME OF DIANA'S GREATEST FRIENDS AND FOES.

BY SHARI GOLDHAGEN

### ARES 1ST APPEARANCE, 1942 WONDER WOMAN VOL. 1 #1

The god of war, Ares (David Thewlis) was the major villain of 2017's *Wonder Woman*, but this most fearsome son of Zeus has been one of Diana's chief foes since the 1940s, when he was introduced in a story by *Wonder Woman* creator William Moulton Marston. Sometimes referred to by his Roman name, "Mars," he has godly strength and gets a power boost absorbing violent emotions and actions of others. Only magical weapons (and demigods like Diana!) can harm him.



### BULLETS AND BRACELETS 1ST APPEARANCE, 1941 ALL-STAR COMICS VOL. 1 #8

In Diana's comic origins (and the 1970s TV show), this is the final test to determine who takes Steve Trevor back to the U.S. One Amazon fires a gun at the other, who must deflect it with her bracelets of submission—cool jewelry Amazons wear to remind them of their time in bondage.

### CHEETAH 1ST APPEARANCE, 1943 WONDER WOMAN VOL. 1 #6

Archaeologist Barbara Minerva was once a good friend of Diana's, but becomes *Wonder Woman's* arch enemy once inhabited by the Cheetah goddess while on a dig. Her abilities include the speed and pouncing power of her namesake cat. The character was originally created by Marston as a foil to Diana—a "less actively developed woman," who falls victim to emotions like jealousy. Kristen Wiig tackles the role in *WW84*.



### DOCTOR POISON 1ST APPEARANCE, 1942 SENSATION COMICS VOL. 1 #2

Diana's rogues gallery includes myriad deranged docs—Dr. Psycho, Dr. Cyber, Dr. Domino, Dr. Echo and Dr. Novel—but Princess Maru, aka Doctor Poison (created by Marston), takes the cyanide cake. Originally a Nazi scientist with plans to contaminate the water supply, a later version sees her as a Japanese spy. *Wonder Woman* featured Elena Anaya as a Spanish scientist with the moniker.

### EVILNESS 1ST APPEARANCE, 1944 WONDER WOMAN VOL. 1 #10

As the name suggests, Evilness is not the nicest of ladies. Hailing from the planet Saturn, she is a slave driver with no superpowers except the ability to crack a whip in a way to inflict the most damage. In another on-the-nose turn, Evilness (another Marston creation) forms a band of female foes called "Villainy Inc."

### FIRST BORN 1ST APPEARANCE, 2012 WONDER WOMAN VOL. 4 #13

It's not hard to see why he went bad. The First Born was... wait for it...the firstborn son of Zeus and Hera, but a witch's prophecy claimed one day he would sit on his dad's throne with all the gods dead around him. As such, Zeus arranged to have him killed. It didn't take and First Born (created by Brian Azzarello) was raised by hyenas. Big and cannibalistic, he has a love-hate relationship with his dad that often entails trying to kill him.



**GIGANTA**  
1ST APPEARANCE, 1944  
WONDER WOMAN VOL. 1 #9

She's big, very, big. In some versions Giganta didn't start out as a human, but was a giant ape in the lab of a mad scientist. As is typical in these situations, an accident occurred and the ape became a redhead in a *Flintstones*-esque dress who can increase her size to become a more formidable foe. Created by Marston in the 1940s, Giganta fell out of favor for a few decades. However, the big baddie found a new following when she appeared as a member of the Legion of Doom on *Superfriends*.

**KUNG** 1ST APPEARANCE, 1977 WONDER WOMAN #237

During the Great Depression, Thomas Morita grew to hate the U.S. after his Japanese-immigrant parents faced discrimination and died. So he traveled to their homeland, trained as a samurai—which included picking up the ability to change into animal form—and became an assassin known as Kung.

**HIPPOLYTA**  
1ST APPEARANCE, 1941  
ALL-STAR COMICS VOL. 1 #8

Based on the queen of the Amazons from Greek myths, Wonder Woman's mom presides over Paradise Island away from the evils of Man's World. (After Hercules seduced her and stole her magic girdle, she was understandably anti-dude.) Depending on the version, she made Diana from clay or had a fling with Zeus. Created by Marston, she was originally a brunette and "Hippolyte." In the films, she's played by Connie Nielsen.

**INVISIBLE PLANE**  
1ST APPEARANCE, 1941  
ALL-STAR COMICS VOL. 1 #8

In later versions, Diana has the power of flight, but in her debut, she only had super speed. So how does an Amazon get around? An invisible jet, of course! Initially the plane was built by Diana as a child, though later stories claim it began as an alien life-form. And talk about a key fob! Diana can control the plane with the telepathic powers of her tiara.

**JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA**  
1ST APPEARANCE, 1960  
THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #28

Created by writer Gardner Fox as a new spin on the Justice Society (which Diana was also a part of), the JLA is a group of super friends who work together to take down the universe's biggest bad guys, including rival metahuman team the Legion of Doom. Though membership varies, the JLA almost always includes Batman, Wonder Woman, Superman and some incarnation of the Flash. There have been multiple TV and movie versions, most recently the *Justice League* films starring Henry Cavill and Ben Affleck.



**LASSO OF TRUTH**  
1ST APPEARANCE, 1941  
ALL-STAR COMICS VOL. 1 #8

In *Wonder Woman's* inaugural outing, the golden lasso was formed from Aphrodite's girdle. Unbreakable and 150 feet long, it compels everyone within its grasp to tell the truth. (Did we mention creator Marston invented an early version of the lie detector?) Wonder Woman's primary weapon has a few other nifty tricks; it can restore memories, banish delusions, hypnotize people and protect those in its grasp from magic.



**ORANA**  
1ST APPEARANCE, 1978  
WONDER WOMAN VOL. 1 #250

This redheaded Amazon insists on a contest to determine the title of Wonder Woman. It comes down to Orana and Diana. Though equally skilled, Diana stops to save humans and loses. Orana takes up the mantle, but the brash "New Wonder Woman" dies in her first mission.



**MEDUSA**  
1ST APPEARANCE, 1965  
WONDER WOMAN VOL. 1 #153

In mythology, Athena turns beautiful Medusa into an ugly crone who turns those who look at her to stone. Created by Robert Kanigher and Ross Andru, DC's Medusa still does the stone trick, but it was the Duke of Deception who replaced her face. After her fiancé breaks their engagement, the snake-haired Gorgon takes her rage to the streets. A later version restores her roots.

**NUBIA**  
1ST APPEARANCE, 1973  
WONDER WOMAN VOL. 1 #204

After an amnesiac Diana (who'd been working as a non-powered spy in mod wear) has her memories restored, she's challenged to combat by a mysterious woman. There's no winner in the battle, and the women seem eerily evenly matched. Turns out, Hippolyta actually made two babies out of clay and Nubia is Diana's long-lost twin, who had been abducted by Mars and raised as a weapon. Quickly, Nubia joins the good guys. Created by Robert Kanigher, Nubia was one of DC Comics' first black superheroes.



**PARADISE ISLAND**  
1ST APPEARANCE, 1941  
ALL-STAR COMICS VOL. 1 #8

After a period of enslavement, Hippolyta and the Amazons overpower their masters and sail to Paradise Island—renamed Themyscira in 1987—to start a society that takes "no boys allowed" to a new level. As long as they follow Aphrodite's rules, they have peace and eternal life. Diana is the nation's princess.





**QUEEN OF FABLES**

**1ST APPEARANCE, 2000**  
JLA #47

Based on the wicked queen from *Snow White*, this powerful sorceress—created for the comics by writer Gail Simone—can do all kinds of fancy tricks related to fairy-tale magic. The Queen of Fables has dragons, ogres and goblins galore at her beck and call; she once turned Manhattan into an enchanted forest.



**REQUIEM** 1ST APPEARANCE, 1994 (AS ARTEMIS)  
WONDER WOMAN VOL. 2 #90

Part of a splintered Amazon tribe, Artemis wins a new tournament and takes over the role as Wonder Woman, though she is never quite embraced by the JLA and the world. After dying in a battle, her soul is sent to hell, where she becomes part of a demonic legion of warriors and adopts the moniker Requiem.

**SILVER SWAN**

**1ST APPEARANCE, 1982**  
WONDER WOMAN VOL. 1 #288

A ballerina who's denied roles because of her homely appearance, Helen Alexandros (created by Roy Thomas) makes a deal with Mars: He'll make her a knockout if she offs Wonder Woman. Plus she gets the power to fly and generate a sonic cry. Over the years two other versions of the character have appeared, all similarly inspired by the Ugly Duckling.



**TREVOR, STEVE**

**1ST APPEARANCE, 1941**  
ALL-STAR COMICS VOL. 1 #8

From the moment his plane crashes into Paradise Island, Captain Steve Trevor has been Diana's greatest love. The feelings are mutual, and Diana has always been his "angel." Usually a U.S intelligence officer or high-level spy, Steve fights for the good guys no matter the decade. In the 1970s TV show, Lyle Waggoner starred as the hunk, while Chris Pine currently has the role in the films.



**URZKARTAGA**

**1ST APPEARANCE, 1989**  
ALL-STAR COMICS VOL. 2 #28

Created by George Perez, this African plant god is worshiped by a matriarchal tribe. Each year these ladies give one virgin a mix of his blood and some human sacrifices and she becomes his new consort the Cheetah. If she's not a virgin, there can be some consequences, like what happened to Barbara Ann Minerva.

**VERONICA CALE**

**1ST APPEARANCE, 2003**  
WONDER WOMAN VOL. 2 #196

Sort of WW's version of Lex Luthor, Veronica Cale (created by Greg Rucka) has no powers other than her brilliance and the billions she made from her pharmaceutical company. As a self-made woman, Veronica resents Diana's gifts and often excoriates her in the media.



**X-MEN**

**1ST APPEARANCE, 1996**  
DC V. MARVEL #1

This rare Marvel and DC collaboration by Ron Marz and Peter David saw the heaviest hitters from each comic universe in battles where readers voted to decide the victors. Diana is pitted against weather-wielding X-Men Storm. Though Diana has Thor's hammer—one of the few ever to wield the legendary weapon—she abandons it for a fairer fight. Bad choice; Storm bests her with a few lightning bolts.



**WONDER GIRL**

**1ST APPEARANCE, 1965**  
THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #60

Donna Troy has several different origin stories—rescued by Wonder Woman and raised on Paradise Island; raised by titans—but she's almost always one of the founding members of the Teen Titans (created by Marv Wolfman) along with fellow super youths Robin, Kid Flash and Beast Boy. She's played by Conor Leslie in the DC web series *Titans*.

**THE YTIRFLIRKS** 1ST APPEARANCE, 1984

WONDER WOMAN VOL. 1 #311

This race of enormous aliens are big on slave labor, especially when it comes to the free work of other species. When some of their enslaved creatures escape to Siberia, things get a little messy.

**ZEUS**

**1ST APPEARANCE, 1944**  
SUPERMAN VOL. 1 #28

Initially introduced by comics legend George Perez, the DC version of Zeus follows closely with the Greek myth. After slaying his own father, Zeus rules his fellow gods on Mt. Olympus with sister/wife Hera. In recent incarnations of *Wonder Woman*, Zeus is Diana's biological father (he and Hippolyta ended up in bed post-battle). Still this doesn't stop the notorious cad from trying to seduce Diana. She refuses. ★





# DO YOU KNOW WONDER WOMAN?

Diana's been besting bad guys for nearly 80 years, but how much do you really know about the superhero? Take our quizzes to find out.



**A-PLUS ASSISTANT**  
 Lucy Davis proved comedic gold as Steve Trevor's secretary in *Wonder Woman*. "I felt a huge amount of freedom playing her," Davis has said. "I just... was."

**d** While celebrating after saving the village from a sniper attack

**15 Wonder Woman's secret identity is:**  
 a Diana Kent  
 b Diana Wayne  
 c Diana Prince  
 d Diana Price

## EASY ★ BASIC BULLETS & BRACELETS

**1 Home sweet home!** Diana was born and raised on:  
 a Fantasy Island  
 b Mt. Holyoke  
 c Themyscira  
 d Mt. Olympus

**2 Diana's cool gadgets include all BUT:**  
 a Bullet-deflecting bracelets  
 b A god-killing sword  
 c A Lantern Corps ring  
 d A golden lasso

**3 Wonder Woman was created by:**  
 a Jerry Siegel  
 b Stan Lee  
 c William Moulton Marston  
 d Gail Simone

**4 The super team in 2018's *Justice League* includes every hero EXCEPT:**  
 a Batman  
 b Cyborg  
 c Aquaman  
 d Supergirl

**5 Mommy fiercest!** Diana's mother is:

a Hippolyta  
 b Artemis  
 c Antiope  
 d Wonder Mom

**6 Before embarking on his suicide mission in 2017's *Wonder Woman*, Steve gives Diana his father's:**  
 a Diary  
 b Watch  
 c Purple heart  
 d Wedding ring

**7 Diana epically fights the God of War, aka:**  
 a Zeus

b Hades  
 c Ares  
 d Hercules

**8 In the film's opening, Diana is working at:**  
 a The Louvre Museum  
 b The British Museum  
 c The Gap  
 d The Autry Museum

**9 An uncanny assistant:** In the movie, Steve's secretary is:  
 a Donna Troy  
 b Etta Candy

c Natasha Romanoff  
 d Lois Lane

**10 Holy costume change!** In the 1970s TV show, Diana switches clothes by:  
 a Ducking into a phone booth  
 b Spinning in a circle  
 c Saying "Shazam"  
 d Activating her power ring

**11 Man's World here she comes!** In the movie, Diana and Steve travel to London from her homeland via:  
 a Invisible jet  
 b Sailboat  
 c Disney Cruise  
 d Flying elephant

**12 In the *WW84* preview, Steve mistakes the following object for a work of art:**

a A trash can  
 b A fire hydrant  
 c A Scotch tape dispenser  
 d An "Exit" sign

**13 In *Wonder Woman*, who sends Diana the picture of Steve and the gang?**  
 a Clark Kent  
 b Bruce Wayne  
 c Peter Parker  
 d Dick Grayson

**14 Isn't it romantic?** Diana and Steve first dance in the film when:  
 a She rescues him from the plane crash  
 b He buys her a new Western wardrobe for her to wear  
 c She eats an ice cream cone at the train station

**DYNAMIC DUO**  
 Gal Gadot and Chris Pine made a formidable team in *Wonder Woman*. "They have so much on-screen chemistry," Matthew Jensen, director of photography, has said.

**HARD ★ ADVANCED AMAZON**

**1** Wonder Woman made her inaugural comic book appearance in December 1941 in which issue:

- a *All-Star Comics* #8
- b *The Brave and the Bold* #3
- c *Wonder Woman* #1
- d *Sensation Comics* #7

**2** Heroic hookups! Who of the following has NOT been a love interest for Diana in the comics:

- a Steve Trevor
- b Superman
- c Nemesis

d Martian Manhunter

**3** Terms of endearment: In his first appearance in the comic books and the 1970s TV show, Steve Trevor calls Wonder Woman his:

- a Angel
- b Goddess
- c Sweet girl
- d Darling

**4** Now that's bad medicine! All of the following are members of Wonder Woman's rogues' gallery EXCEPT:



**LOVELY LYNDA**

For many people of a certain age, Lynda Carter will always be Wonder Woman. And she's always happy to meet fans. "I love hearing people's stories," Carter has said.



- a Doctor Cyber
- b Doctor Pain
- c Doctor Psycho
- d Doctor Poison

**5** From 1969-1972 in the comic books, Diana voluntarily gave up her powers and found work as a:

- a Doctor
- b Professor
- c Spy
- d Test pilot

**6** By the gods! All of the following are among Diana's sayings EXCEPT:

- a Suffering Sappho!
- b Great Hera!
- c Shades of Pluto!
- d Awesome Aphrodite!

**7** Generally the smart money is on Diana, but Wonder Woman

has lost a battle to this Marvel character:

- a Storm
- b Captain Marvel
- c Jean Grey
- d Green Goblin

**8** So many Wonders! Wonder Girl, Wonder Woman and Wonder Tot worked together in the comics series:

- a *The Fantastical Yarns*
- b *The Impossible Tales*
- c *The Wonder Family*
- d *The Justice Society*

**9** This famous feminist put in a call to DC Comics and helped Diana get her powers restored in the 1970s:

- a Erica Jong
- b Gloria Steinem
- c Ruth Bader Ginsberg
- d Elizabeth Cady Stanton

**10** That's some spiffy key fob! Diana can control the invisible jet remotely by using her:

- a Tiara
- b Bracelets
- c Lasso
- d Breastplate

**11** Sisters unite! Who of the following is not an Amazon:

- a Artemis
- b Antiope
- c Orana
- d Athena

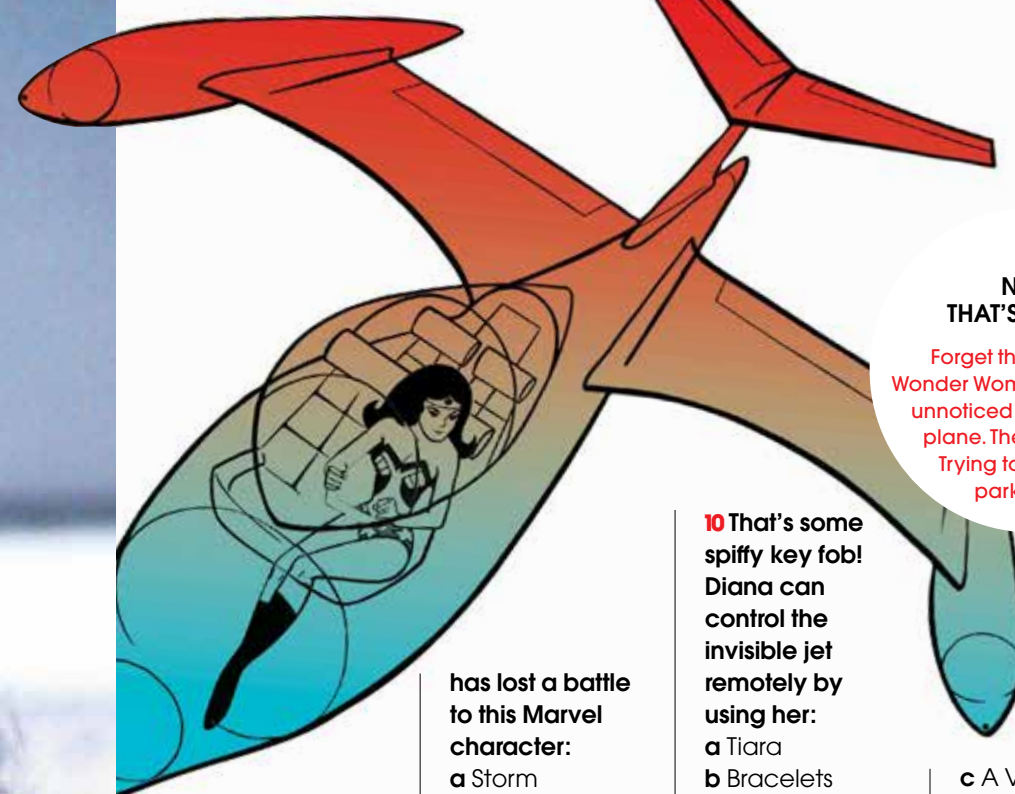
**12** In the early days of her comics, Wonder Woman loses her powers when:

- a She takes off her bracelets
- b She is bound by a man
- c She falls in love with a mortal
- d She looks in a mirror

**13** Wonder Woman's original illustrator H.G. Peter based Diana's iconic look off of:

- a A Gibson Girl
- b A Radio City Rockette

**NOW THAT'S STEALTH**  
Forget the Bat Plane. Wonder Woman flies around unnoticed in an invisible plane. The downside? Trying to find it in a parking lot!



- c A Varga pinup girl
- d Sandro Botticelli's "Birth of Venus"

**14** All of the following actresses have played a live-action Wonder Woman except for:

- a Adrienne Palicki
- b Lynda Carter
- c Cathy Lee Crosby
- d Angelina Jolie

**15** Which of the following super teams has Wonder Woman NOT been a part of:

- a The Justice Society of America
- b The Justice Squadron of America
- c The Justice League of America
- d The All-Star Squadron ★

HOLLYWOOD SPOTLIGHT™  
THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO  
**WONDER WOMAN**

**PUBLISHERS**

Ben Harris  
Sebastian Raatz

**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**

Annabel Vered

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Shari Goldhagen

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR**

Jessica Power

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Janet Giovannelli

**DESIGN DIRECTOR**

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**DEPUTY EDITORS**

Ron Kelly  
Alyssa Shaffer

**SENIOR ART DIRECTOR**

Pino Impastato

**ART DIRECTORS**

Natali Suasnavas  
Joseph Ulatowski

**ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR**

Jaelyn Loney

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Claire Connors  
Shira Levine  
Aimee Levitt  
Natalie Nichols  
Jordana White  
Jules Wilkinson  
Zak Wojnar

**PHOTO EDITOR**

Jennifer Veiga

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Paul Rodina

**COPY EDITOR**

Shawn Fury

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**

Alyssa Swiderski

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT**

Tiana Schippa



**CO-FOUNDERS**

Ben Harris  
Sebastian Raatz

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Alyssa Spiel

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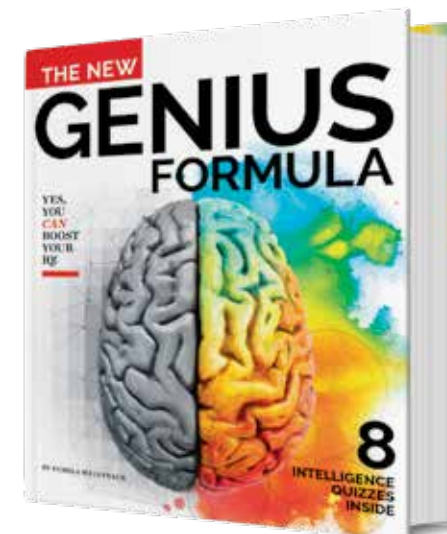
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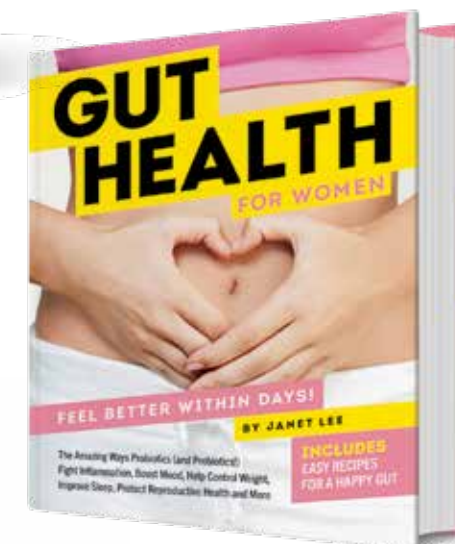
Retro Romance: Reunited lovers Diana (Gal Gadot) and Steve (Chris Pine) share a dance in *WW84*.

# CHECK OUT THESE GREAT READS!



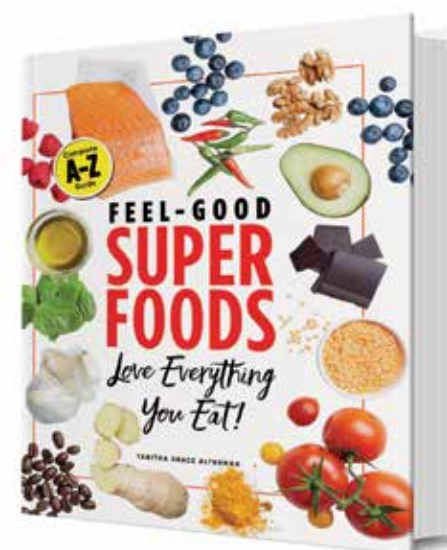
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**THE BIG '80s**  
Pedro Pascal, Gal Gadot,  
Kristen Wiig and Chris Pine  
get their neon on for *WW84*.

