

ACTOR

# SOFÍA VERGARA

*The Modern Family bombshell, 42, who walks the line between funny and sultry, is taking on the big screen*



or act, or anything, but it's natural for me. We always like having a lot of fun. I don't care about looking ugly or looking ridiculous. I'm not afraid of that, and I think that helps a lot when you're doing comedy.

***This is an exciting time in your personal life, too. I was just blinded by your engagement ring, which is beautiful! During an interview, you said that when you first heard [True Blood and Magic Mike actor]***

***Joe [Manganiello] wanted to ask you out, you thought he was too handsome to date – what brought you around?*** I still think he's too handsome to date! So, at the beginning, I didn't want that. I wanted something more, you know, normal [laughs]. I thought it was going to be too much. I didn't want to be pushing women out of the way. I wanted something more peaceful. But then I met him and I learnt how he really was. You start seeing the person for other things, so I let my guard down and it was fine. ***And perhaps you've been on the other side of that, too – where you've been pigeonholed by men and then they've gotten to know you and realised there's lots more to you?*** Yeah, you know men usually don't complain about that [laughs]. Men are not usually saying, "Oh no, you're too gorgeous... Oh no, you're too sexy." No. ***Your son, Manolo [22, from Vergara's first marriage], said in one of the YouTube videos he's posted chronicling your life that when people ask him about your work-out routine, he laughs in their faces. No respect.***

***I take it you don't like going to the gym?***

I don't like it, but now that I'm older I do it more. You have to, especially if you live in LA, where everybody works out. It's part of being serious and professional. You have to look good in front of the camera. Nobody wants to look wrinkled or saggy.

***What sort of stuff do you do?*** I do anything anyone tells me works. Like, *anything*. I love products. I sleep with a million creams on. Now I work out, which I hate, but I do it at least three times a week. I try to eat healthy. I drink juices. I have a very sweet tooth, so I try to compensate. My whole life, I've believed in everything in moderation. I don't do diets or work out at four in the morning to be on the set at six. I drink alcohol and I party when I can do it. It's not like I don't do any of the fun things.

***You're also a spokesperson for the organisation Follow The Script, which came about after you suffered from thyroid cancer. I had thyroid cancer in 2001 and it was an experience that changed my life. Because once they tell you that word, it's very scary. I was young and Manolo was young. I took care of it. I was lucky to get it completely out of my system. To join a campaign, that comes very easy and natural to me because of my experience.***

***Did that experience dictate the way you've lived your life since then?*** You realise you have to sweat the small stuff less and look at the big picture, but also take care of your body and be serious about health. That's why I try to work out, eat healthy and I don't smoke. **ALICE WASLEY**

*Hot Pursuit is in cinemas on June 11.*

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***Your new movie, Hot Pursuit, looks like a great women-centric comedy – is that one of the things that appealed to you?***

Of course. Also, working with [co-star and the film's producer] Reese Witherspoon. That she wanted me to be in a movie with her, that's what made it more interesting for me.

***You're also an executive producer on the movie, which is directed by Anne Fletcher (27 Dresses). Do you think it's important for female-focused films to be made?*** Yeah, it's great. There aren't many of them and it's important, for example, for someone like Reese to come up with the idea. She came to me and was like, "Let's do this."

***Did you have any trepidation about going toe-to-toe with an Oscar-winning actress?*** No, because it makes you feel more secure about everything that is going on around you. Sometimes [on set] you're feeling, "Is this funny?" Or, "Is this right?" ***You're known for playing Gloria on Modern Family. What do you think makes you so well suited to comedy?***

Well, my real family is very funny. I never thought I was going to make a living out of it

EDITED BY MEL EVANS. YOUR WEEK: ALLEY PASCOE. PHOTOGRAPHY: SARA KAUSS/WIREIMAGE

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