

A One-Woman Cast of Thousands

THE QUEEN OF SKETCH COMEDY UNLEASHES HER INNER MAN, DIVA, POLITICIAN AND MORE

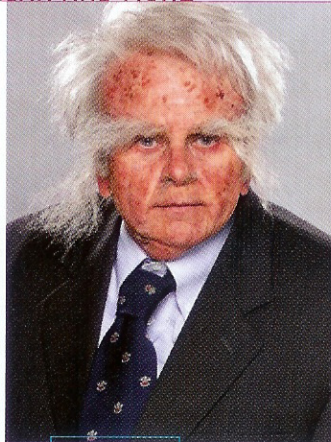
Tracy Ullman, 48, morphs at the speed of one personality per minute in her new Showtime series, *Tracey Ullman's State of the Union* (premiering March 30). "I'm not mean or having a go at anyone," says the actress, who landed here from Britain 25 years ago and whose show features her both as celebrities and characters she created. "Everyone has endearing quirks."

You recently became an American citizen. Why?

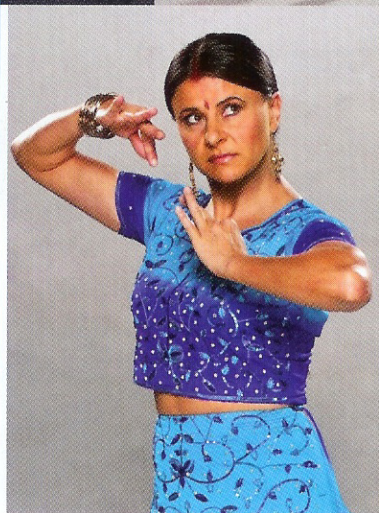
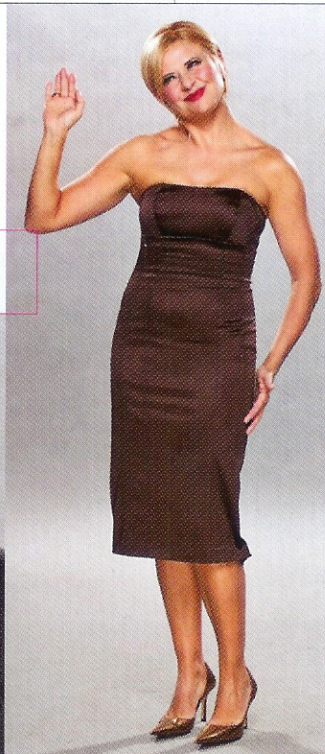
After the last election, I felt shut out of the process. Now I can vote and say what I want without being sent to Guantánamo Bay.

Who are some people you portray?

Nancy Pelosi and Arianna Huffington, who is imitable because she sounds like Zsa Zsa Gabor: "Dahling, you must blog for me. Blahs and keeses!" And Dina Lohan, Lindsay's mother, waiting in that special room they put mums in to look after the young and out



Ullman (far right) gets into character as (clockwise from above): Ronnie Rooney (Andy's fake brother), Renée Zellweger, and Padma Perkish, an Indian pharmacist.



of control. Those women are hysterical because they think they can fit into size 0 jeans and look the same as their daughters.

What's the key to playing a man?

Be conscious of your penis. They're always touching them, aren't they? I have various size penises in my wardrobe room. I have so many different body props—bottoms and breasts and hips and shoulders. We use a lot of birdseed in them, and if I don't store them carefully, the rats come and eat my breasts. **Do you eavesdrop to get your material?**

Years ago, I'd ring people at car dealerships in Brooklyn and tape them over the phone to get a real

accent. Now I use YouTube. **Whatever happened to the bathrobe you always wore on your 1980s series, *The Tracey Ullman Show*?** I'm not nostalgic, but that's one thing I kept. It's holding up well; the rats haven't gotten to it yet.

—ERIKA MILVY