



**WORKING FOR TYLER PERRY** “I drew from that place in my life when I didn’t need or want anyone,” Blige says of her alcoholic atheist Tonya in Perry’s film *I Can Do Bad All by Myself*. She’d also love to make over Perry’s belligerent granny Madea: “I’d color that hair and do a sheer lipstick. And flowery clothes are so grandma! I’d give her more big-girl chic.”

**HER MARRIAGE SECRET** “The key is praying,” says Blige, 38, who’s been with husband Kendu Isaacs, 41, for five years. “And having a fair system: You don’t nag me, I won’t nag you.”

**MUSIC SHE’S INTO NOW** “Adele’s voice is *sick*,” says Blige. She’s also honing her upcoming album, which says, “If you need to cry or scream, do it,” explains the singer, cohosting a Sept. 16 Gucci Fashion Week bash for her Foundation for Women Now to help at-risk females. “You’re stronger now. You won’t let anyone walk all over you.”

**TWITS ON TWITTER** She follows Oprah, Sean “Diddy” Combs and Jeremy Piven, but she’s baffled by “imposters [who say,] ‘I’m the real Mary J. Blige.’ I want to say, ‘No, you’re not!’ It’s weird.” —**JESSICA HERNDON**

**CATCHING UP WITH**

# MARY J. BLIGE

The R&B queen on acting for Tyler Perry, the oddballs on Twitter and keeping her husband happy