



LOVE TO FLY? GOOD AT GAME SHOWS? THESE ENTERPRISING WOMEN PROVE THAT IF YOU PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT, YOU JUST MIGHT ACHIEVE THE CAREER OF YOUR DREAMS.

We moms know that raising children is a wonderful calling that should never be taken for granted. But what about all of that down time between breakfast and dinner? While most of us count our blessings to have nice-but-blah jobs in concrete office buildings, it's now time to read wistfully about a couple dozen moms who somehow scored the killer career. These women inspire us to think that our turn might be just around the corner.



MICHELE O'CALLAGHAN
Makeup Artist

Whoops, is that a small blemish on Gwyneth Paltrow? Only Michele O'Callaghan knows for sure. As a makeup artist for major film studios and television networks, Michele has the enviable job of making the beautiful people look beautiful...or like someone else entirely. "I never know what the day is going to throw at me," says Michele, who on this particular day was busy making an actor look like Abraham Lincoln. A wigmaking neighbor encouraged Michele to study special effects makeup in London. After that she spent five months pestering the NBC booker until she got hired. "The hours can suck," she admits, "but usually I'm home in the mornings to see my kids off to school. I've been in it long enough so that I can pick and choose the majority of my work."



GINA BENNETT
Counterterrorism Specialist

You can't really call Gina Bennett anything other than "supermom." Besides keeping the world safe for her kids, she's also keeping the country safe for all our kids. As a counterterrorism intelligence analyst, Gina spends her day literally identifying, analyzing

and diverting terrorist plots. "Sometimes I go to bed feeling relief in knowing that there will be no attack the next day," Gina says. Although an unusual occupation for a woman, Gina, who is writing a book on her experience, says that women are actually well-suited for the work. "Women don't necessarily go into a challenge believing there's a solution," she says. "We tend to absorb the problem, examine it from multiple views and manage numerous priorities and tasks all at one time."



KRISTEN CARR
Dog Walker Extraordinaire

While all her schoolmates were babysitting, Kristen Carr was pet-sitting. The lover of all things furry, feathered and reptilian now has an extremely successful business called Well-Minded in Maricopa, Arizona. How does Kristen take the inherently tedious task of walking the dog and turn it into something extraordinary? By building a large list of grateful clientele who gladly pay premium prices so that their pets can stay out of the kennels. One dog showed his gratitude by locking Kristen out of the house, with her cell phone and files inside. "He kept bringing pieces of garbage to show me at the window, and all I could do was watch," Kristen says. Mother to a 2-year-old and a 10-year-old stepson, Kristen has managed to retain her sense of humor.



LISA ANDERSON | Professional Surfer

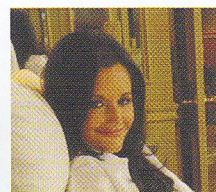
Lisa Anderson fell in love with surfing when she was 15. Her parents weren't as enthusiastic. So the Florida native ran away to Huntington Beach, California and soon began to surf competitively. First as an amateur and then as a pro, Lisa went on to win the World Championship Tour four years in a row. Just months after her first child was born, Lisa got right back in, reaching the finals in a competition in Japan. "Children keep you grounded and they keep you focused," Lisa says. Raising two children now, the woman that has been called one of the two surfing icons of the past 15 years (along with male surfer Kelly Slater) is an inspiration for female surfers around the world. Still, it's a little tougher now that Lisa, who directs special events with Roxy America/Quiksilver, is staying put. "I can't follow the sun anymore," she laughs. "It's hard to motivate myself to go out there and freeze."



MICHELE LEWIS
Professional Poker Player

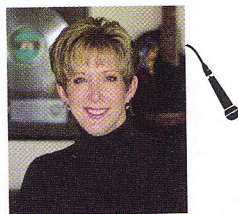
How can a smart mom combine math, human relations and a talent for gambling into one cool business? Michele Lewis does it as a professional poker player, taking part in the WSOP (World Series of Poker) every year and writing about her experiences on her blog, www.michelelewis.typepad.com. "I started playing in college with a bunch of friends and then went back to it professionally in 2003,"

says Michele, who became a mom in 2002. Often Michele is sponsored, which means she is gambling other people's money. "When I play with other people's money I tend to play better," she says, bringing home winnings of \$80,000 in 2006. Michele took some time off in 2007 to focus on her two children. The lucky bugs went with her this past summer to WSOP in Las Vegas.



JESSICA ROVELLO
Gaming Developer

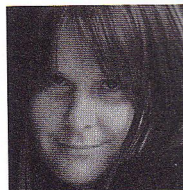
No one ever beat Jessica at Ms. Pacman when she was growing up. No one. Little wonder, then, that Jessica would someday return to her passion for games and start a company called Arkadium in 2001. The New York City-based firm creates customized software that turns into cool online games for their many big-name clients including Harrah's, Dunkin' Donuts and General Electric. "Lots of women play online games but fewer are on the developing side," Jessica says. "Gaming companies are always looking to add smart and talented women to their teams," she continues. "Read the gaming trade magazines, blogs and visit related websites to look for job openings."



DAYNA STEELE
Voiceover Artist

On any given Monday, Dayna Steele gets up, packs lunches for her two sons, then heads into her home studio to record her voice for a radio spot audition. "I tell everyone to 'keep it down, mom has a voiceover,'" Dayna says, smiling. "Used to be I had to drive two hours for an audition; now I just e-mail it to my agent." A former rock DJ who wrote a successful book called *Rock to the Top: What I Learned from the World's Biggest Rock Stars*, Dayna now provides voice talent for advertising agencies and pretty much anyone who will pay her fee. "I tell prospective clients that my voice is my product," Dayna says. "Branding is important

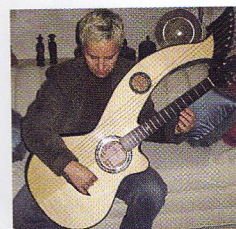
in this business." She advises other moms who think they have the gift of the gab to find a good agent, invest in the right equipment and have a great demo.



HOLLY BRIX
Screenwriter

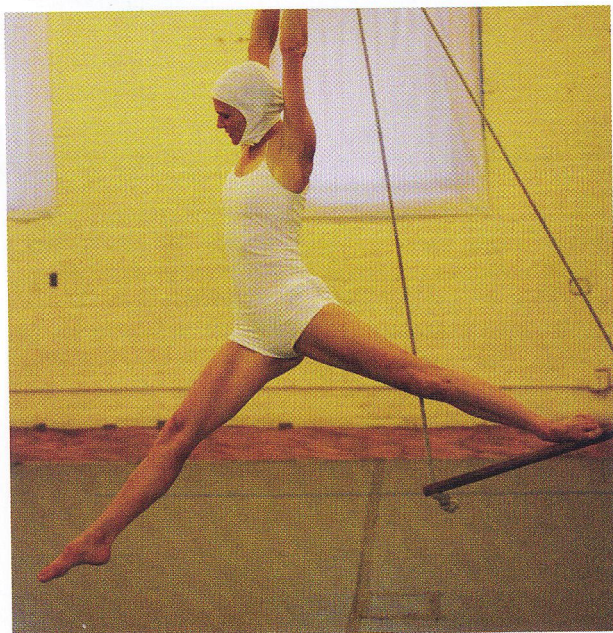
Holly proves that screenwriting has come a very long way from the days of studio stars and men in white shirts hunched over typewriters in a smoke-filled room. "I write when I can get a sitter," says Holly, who got the screenwriting bug in college and hasn't stopped producing since. Winning a prestigious contest got the attention of some managers and landed her some real meetings. Still, it took eight

scripts before she sold one. The mother of two looks forward to her first screenplay getting produced this winter, and urges other aspiring screenwriters to read plenty of scripts (they're free online), take a class on writing and "go to it!"



KATHY WINGERT
Guitar Maker

When she was 3, Kathy Wingert became hooked on the songs of Joan Baez. After that, the siren song of an acoustic guitar never left her, but instead of becoming a full musician Kathy began making guitars herself. "I was always pretty mechanical," she says, "and though I couldn't say when something on a car was broken

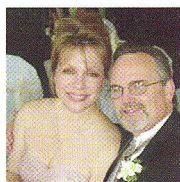


JULIE LUDWICK | Aerial Dancer

She swings through the air with the greatest of ease/That daring young mom on the flying trapeze.... Modern dancer Julie Ludwick found great joy in the freedom of combining movement with lifts using a low-flying trapeze, and founded Fly-by-Night Dance Theatre in New York City in 1999. "I really appreciated the feeling of freedom it brings; who needs a male partner to get up in the air when you can do it yourself?" Julie says. Julie's struggles to balance time with her son, choreograph performances and run a non-profit company means that everything takes longer than it should. But being a mom, Julie says, has matured her art. "My artistic vision has grown," she maintains. "I believe mothers need to keep their voices going; we can't become silent just when we are beginning to see the whole picture."



once I knew what it was I could fix it.” The same mechanical aptitude and patience helps Kathy in the 120-plus hours it takes to finish a single guitar. Oh, but what a guitar it is, commanding \$7,000 and up and strummed by many renowned composers and studio musicians all over the world. And one of Kathy’s daughters is following in her footsteps, doing some of the artistic inlay work alongside of mom.



REBECCA NELSON
eBay Business Owner

A phenomenal decorator and painter, Rebecca Nelson proved in early eBay days to also be a savvy online store owner. 15 years ago, the mother of two spotted a handpainted vintage suitcase that wasn’t done very well. Trying her own hand and adding gorgeous fabric lining and shirring to the insides, Rebecca’s suitcases and train cases have been hits with the bridal crowd ever since. Her last one sold for nearly \$500. “I try not to make more than one a month as they are very time-consuming,” Rebecca says. She sells most of them through her website and sells smaller pieces on eBay. “I never get tired of doing this kind of work,” she says.



KELLY MAGYARICS
Wine Consultant and Writer

Sorry, we must state the obvious: What better life could there be than tasting good wine and getting paid for it?



Kelly Magyarics will agree wholeheartedly but also points out the downside. (Nothing; there is no downside; pass the champagne, please). Working around two little ones does take creativity and tolerance for constant interruption. But Kelly, who got her first break after starting a wine group for a volunteer organization, says she wouldn’t have it any other way. “My perfect day would be to write all morning while the kids are in school; having lunch with them; working some more while they nap; going to the pool or playground in the afternoon; then ending the evening with a wine event,” Kelly says. “That perfect day hasn’t happened yet but I’m still hoping.”



LINDA BETTENCOURT
Interior Designer

We all like to secretly think we have a knack for interior design. Linda Bettencourt not only thought it, she also built a successful career on her talents. “I have a great vision for seeing the possibilities in a rough space,” says Linda, who landed her first job as a design assistant with the Gettys. Taking a chance on her own design firm in 1998, Linda added staging as a way to pay the bills. The business took off and now San Francisco-based Center Stage Inc., is in high demand. Despite her hectic

schedule, Linda spends every spare hour with her twin sons and never works past 6 p.m. “I answer e-mail in the preschool line, pay bills from a soccer game and keep in touch with my clients by cell phone,” she says. “The important things I do, but I haven’t touched my filing since January.”



MOLLY FLETCHER
Sports Agent

Building confidence, making sure they have the best shot in life, protecting them from bad deals and disappointment... a sports agent isn’t that much different from a mom when you



CHANDY CLANTON | Aerobatics Pilot



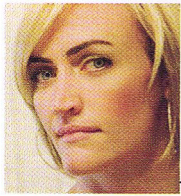
Life is often spent upside down for Chandy Clanton—literally. The accomplished pilot flies maneuvers that have stomach-swirling names like Harrison’s Helix and Drew’s Peekaboo (named for her two young sons). “I won my first aerobatic contest in 1995; but more than winning, I was bitten by the aerobatic bug,” Chandy recalls. “Every time I land, I have this unique sense of accomplishment that is nearly impossible to explain.” Raising two children has made practice time scarce but Chandy returned earlier this year to the prestigious EAA AirVenture in Wisconsin.



NEILLE HOFFMAN

Special Effects Wizard

When graphic design marries animation, you've got special effects and a pretty amazing way to make a living. Neille Hoffman of Aurum Design poured her love of drawing as a child into a graphic design career after college, and during that time she established relationships with women-owned businesses that thrive to this day. Now with her husband, Neille creates animated graphics and visual effects for film and television. The lucky girl recently returned from Cannes after being nominated for an award for a short film she and her husband shot for the Minneapolis 48 Hour International Film Project. "We did it on a lark," Neille says. "We ended up being one of 13 finalists chosen to screen at the Cannes Film Festival."



HEATHER JOHNSON
Celebrity Blogger

"Do I consider my website a mommy blog? Not really, no. When I sit down to update my website I don't think to myself, 'What will I say today on my mommy blog?' The first thing I think is, 'how can I give my father a heart attack?' And then I back up a second and go, nah, I'd miss him too much." This is just one snippet of Heather's hilarious writings on Dooce, a site she started in 2001 that is now successful enough to support her family. Husband Jon, daughter Leta and the poop-eating dog Coco are familiar topics that never run dry. Trust us, it's hilarious and has helped coalesce the exciting realm of mommy bloggers. Heather's secret to success? A passion and huge talent for writing. "Even when I have writer's block I still look forward to taking pictures and writing and sharing," Heather says.



CONSUELO BOVA

eTailer for Short Guys



JANET BRADLEY
Game Show Contestant

If you were watching *Wheel of Fortune* last spring, you would have seen Janet Bradley and her daughter having a blast as contestants. Janet, who's been a lifelong fan of the show, always dreamed of being chosen to play. When the crew came to the Chicago area to recruit, Janet took the leap and the mother-daughter team were selected. "We had a ton of support," she says. "My father, who had been very ill for many years, asked for a ticket so he could sit in the audience. Unfortunately, he was too sick and actually passed away the day after the taping; but he was so proud." So were many others in Janet's town, and Janet is still heady from the experience. "I don't think I'll try for another one," she says. "I just wanted to say I did it, like sky diving."

When the love of her life lamented the lack of great-looking (and fitting) clothing for smaller men, Consuelo Bova heard the lightbulb click on. "There are so many women married to handsome, wonderful men who hide behind ill-fitting clothing," says the former product marketing manager and mother of 18-month-old Jack. "I had never done anything in retailing before, but since I've started I've become quite adept!" Launching *fortheft.com* in 2005, Consuelo spends a great deal of time searching hard for designers and manufacturers who will create shorter lengths and rises on pants, and smaller overall proportions on shirts. The effort has paid off handsomely, and Consuelo loves hearing from grateful customers all over the world. "I save their messages and look at them every morning; they motivate me!"



NINA SUTTON | **Founder, DealsforDivas.com**



DealsforDivas specializes in doing the bargain hunting for fabulous pieces so you don't have to. Nina's background in the beauty industry and retail as well as her longtime penchant for fashion (she put clothes and makeup on her Barbies), earns her the Diva title in our book. Nina has learned a few important lessons while building DealsforDivas into a very popular shopping site: A BlackBerry is your friend. Don't let your child get used to staying up late—EVER. And if you redo your website, they (the advertisers) will come. "They actually started calling me instead of the other way around!" Nina says. She also attributes some bookings on radio stations in driving lots of traffic to her site.

