

Rachael Ray

America's coolest chef scores a new talk show by Lisa Arcella

Thanks to her goofy laugh and 30-minute meals, Rachael Ray's been cooking up good TV for years. Now with her newest project this fall, *The Rachael Ray Show*, the 38-year-old takes on life in—and out of—the kitchen.

Is all your recent success making up for lousy jobs in the past?

Well, I was a happy bartender, too. I am not a money-based person. I never have been. I think I am generally happy most of the time.

Is it tough to stay in shape when you're around food all the time?

I have those days when I feel fat and I have clothes in three different sizes just like everyone else. But listen, I don't love anything or anyone—no man, no job—that would be worth me giving up eating. What's fun about not eating?

What advice would you give to women in their 20s and 30s?

Don't make your life about chasing a guy. I always say to women, If you can spend a day by yourself and be happy, then great. If not, you have a problem.

You just got married last year. Do you think you'll have a child?

I really love, love working with kids and one of my big priorities is to start a charity for children. But do I have time to physically have one? No, and I probably never will. Maybe I will adopt someday. But I think there would be something wrong about doing that right now because I'm never home.

What's your favorite movie?

The Godfather. One and two, of course. Even though we have the DVDs, we still watch the one on TV that's all cut up and filled with commercials.

Who leaves you tongue-tied?

When I met my husband I was completely speechless. I really liked his face, and then he started talking and told me he loved cooking and dogs and I knew I was a goner.

What's your definition of happiness?

Being well fed and in a comfortable bed with my hubby and my dog. And if I've done an honest day's work, then it's been a good day.

