



Tim McGraw

Nashville's megastar brings his Southern swagger to the big screen in the must-see drama *Country Strong*.

Why I won't quit my day job ...

I love acting and I want to do more of it—but I have bills to pay, so I have to keep up with my real job. And I love music. It's given me everything I have that's good in my life.

Why country is so popular these days ...

Because it's like comfort food. When times are hard like they are right now, people gravitate toward whatever makes them feel safe.

My dream duet partner ...

Besides my wife [Faith Hill]? Springsteen. Whatever he'd want to sing, I'd gladly sing along.

I'm not good at ...

Listening. And I don't have a lot of patience. In a house full of women [McGraw and Hill have three daughters, ages 10 to 14], I'm either going to have to learn to do both better or move to a desert island.

My favorite Southern meal ...

Faith makes great fried pork chops, which I eat with mashed potatoes, butter beans, corn bread and sweet tea. In the South, sweet tea is one of the basic food groups.

Why I give back ...

I didn't grow up with a lot. It was hand-to-mouth much of the time. But giving back was something that was instilled in me by my family and my community. I knew that if I were ever blessed with the opportunity, I'd make a difference [McGraw and Hill's 2010 benefit concert for Nashville flood victims raised nearly \$2 million].

My biggest fear ...

Heights. I don't mind flying airplanes, but I can't ride roller coasters or even Ferris wheels. I get paralyzed with fear.

On being a family man ...

I've always wanted to have a stable family life. When you're married and have kids, everything else is just gravy.

—Lisa M. Gerry

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