

**The Diva**

**Name:** Jenifer Lewis

**Vital stats:** 50, "single and grateful to be this fabulous"

**Known for:** Portraying damn near everybody's mama or auntie on the big and small screens, from *What's Love Got to Do With It* to *Girlfriends*, and creating a cult following with the hilariously delusional TV satire *Jackie's Back!*

**What's next:** Indie film *Dirty Laundry*, and her upcoming one-woman extravaganza, "Bipolar, Bath and Beyond" [just kidding, folks].

**Why she should be working more:** Jenifer Lewis does not have an off switch. She has had people rolling since she was 5 years old, and has scored more than 45 film and 65 television roles. "I love people, and when they're smiling, the world is beautiful. My comedic timing came with being honest. I say what everybody else is thinking—and they want to say it—but I say it! But I say things with love in my heart, which is why I get away with it. I work really hard and I make people laugh. I take them down. Everybody goes doooowwnn. 'Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess.' The bitch is going down."

—R.R.

Jenifer Lewis was photographed by Mark Mann, October 30, 2006, in Los Angeles.

LEWIS: SYLVE; AGNES: CAMMOCK; HAIR: LAWRENCE; MAKEUP: MARIE; MAKEUP: MORTIS; SEQUIN DESIGNER: SUSAN ANDERSON; MAKEUP: JILL; CLEAN: VICTOR; TOP: OPHELIA; FREDERICKS: OF HOLLYWOOD; BABYDOLL AND SLIPPERS: DAVID YURMAN; RINGS: LAURANE; SCHWARTZ; BRACELETS AND EARRINGS: PERRY; HAIR: COURTNEY JULIEN; GROOMING: PATRICE COLEMAN; STYLING: BARBARA