

FUN with POWER

Cherry Jones, 51, will enter the Oval Office as President Allison Taylor when *24* resumes on TV. We wondered what it takes to lead the free world.

Is President Allison Taylor foreshadowing our country's future?
The *New York Times* ran an article about how prescient the show can be, so maybe I am. What's funny is that *24* is so cagey, you never know the politics of the president. If you like her, she can be your president. If you don't, you can assume she's in a different party from yours.

The other presidents on *24* have met unfortunate fates—the first was assassinated, the second is in a coma. Are you nervous?
Yes! You do seem to sign a rather limited contract.

You're a two-time Tony winner, and you've said in the past that you'd never leave Broadway



Jones says her character is "someone I'd feel immensely comfortable with as my head of state."

for Hollywood. What changed?
I finished 708 performances of *Doubt* [the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama in which she played a formidable Catholic-school principal]. For three and a half years, I did eight shows a week. I was ready for a break. For the first time in 30 years, I have weekends. I go home to Tennessee and spend time with my family—

my dad is in his eighties and my mother is in her late seventies, so every moment is precious. You're the third woman in three years to play a woman president on TV (after Geena Davis in *Commander in Chief* and Patricia Wettig in *Prison Break*). Why do you think it's suddenly so common? Intense longing, perhaps?

—RACHEL BERTSCHE



**Playlist
OF THE MONTH**
By Holly George-Warren

● **"One More Try"**
Ashford & Simpson / The Warner Bros. Years: Hits, Remixes & Rarities / The Disco diva Valerie Simpson's remix is danceathon-friendly.

● **"You Don't Have to Say You Love Me"**
Shelby Lynne / Just a Little Lovin' / Lynne gives a charismatic rendition of Dusty Springfield's 1966 original.

● **"The House Is Haunted by the Echo of Your Last Goodbye"**
Holly Cole / Holly Cole / A spooky torch song gets jazz noir flourishes by Cole.

● **"I Dream of Spring"**
k.d. lang / Watershed / Her ode to the season of love blends stark rhythms with sweeping orchestration.

● **"The Story"**
Norah Jones / My Blueberry Nights soundtrack / After a night on the set of her soulful movie, Jones wrote this coffeehouse-singing days.

