

HOLLYWOOD Baby Drama!

Glowing and growing, these moms-to-be couldn't be happier, but their pregnancies aren't problem-free



Awards show scare

Not feeling well, Debra leaves the Golden Globes early with husband Daniel Zelman (right).

mama mia! Hollywood has baby fever, as a bumper crop of sexy stars is due to deliver bundles of joy in the next few months. But having a baby hasn't come easily for many of these moms-to-be. They have faced infertility nightmares, heartbreaking miscarriages and struggles with their weight as they count down the days to the blessed event.

After trying to start a family since she married in 2000, Debra Messing has been tormented with fears for her unborn child. Last month, the *Will & Grace* star, 35, fell sick at the Golden Globes. Her husband, actor/writer Daniel Zelman, 36, and a security guard helped her into a limousine and she was rushed home. "It's been one of those problem pregnancies," says Debra's co-star Eric McCormack.

DEBRA MESSING



Diet pressures

Debra, who was ordered by doctors to pack on the pounds, says: "I went through a health-cereal-with-blueberries phase. Then a fast-food burger phase, and now I'm settling into pizza."

PHOTO LEFT: JONAS MEYER/REUTERS; PHOTOS RIGHT: JONAS MEYER/REUTERS

cover story



Leah Remini and husband Angelo Pagan are expecting their baby in June.

Debra has now been given a clean bill of health, but she's still being watched closely by her doctors at LA's Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, the hospital that is also helping Courteney Cox fulfill her dreams.

Trials and tears

The *Friends* star, who turns 40 in June, and her actor husband, David Arquette, 32, have spent four years trying

to conceive. After suffering a number of devastating miscarriages, they even considered adoption and using a surrogate mother.

The fact that her *Friends* alter ego was going through similar struggles made it twice as hard on Courteney: "It just made me cry so hard," she says, "thinking about how Monica wanted to be a mother."

Finally, there were tears of joy when Courteney announced that she got pregnant through in vitro fertilization. "I pray to God everything will go well," says

Courteney, who is due this summer. "But I feel excited."

King of Queens star Leah Remini, 33, had no problem getting pregnant four months after marrying actor Angelo Pagan, 45, last year. But when her weight soared from 110 to 145 pounds, doctors told her to stop binging. "With four months still to go, she's already hit the ideal delivery weight," says a friend of the actress. Leah has had to stick to fruits, vegetables, fish and chicken. "Everyone on the set is helping make sure she stays away from the snack table," adds the friend.

London or Los Angeles?

Even Gwyneth Paltrow, who follows a macrobiotic diet, has been forced to make drastic changes since becoming pregnant. Macrobiotic diets — which ban meat, dairy, wheat, sugar, caffeine and alcohol — can sometimes lack vitamin B, iron and zinc, which are essential for a baby. So Gwyneth, 31, has become more liberal about her food choices. "I sometimes eat crispy duck with pancakes, and I now eat ice cream!" says the actress, who has also stopped smoking.

Gwyneth, meanwhile, has put pressure on herself to decide where to give birth this summer. She wants to raise the child in London, where she and her British rock star husband, Chris Martin, 27, live, but "Madonna told her horror stories about how bad the English hospitals are," a pal says. Gwyneth is now thinking of having the baby in LA, near her mom, actress Blythe Danner.

Risking complications

It's double the trouble for Marcia Gay Harden. The Oscar-winning actress was planning to adopt when she got the good news she was pregnant — with twins! But at 44, Marcia has to take extra precautions, because "the risk of miscarriage is especially high for someone over 40," says Dr. Randy Morris, a professor of reproduction at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Marcia's high-risk pregnancy was compounded by further stress from a personal tragedy: Her nephew Sander, 6, and niece Audrey Harden, 10, were killed in a house fire in December. Marcia hopes the twins will make her smile

The scare was the latest in a series of health woes for Debra, whose tiny size-4 frame has caused complications. In October, doctors warned her to take it easy, because her low body weight might put her pregnancy in danger. She was given intravenous fluids to nourish the fetus and hired a nutritionist to ensure she gains enough weight. She was even restricted to bed rest, and missed work on two of the show's episodes. With only four months left to go,

Look who else is expecting!

in 5 months

4 months

3 months

2 months

1 month to go!



HELEN HUNT



GEENA DAVIS

She's having twins!



HEIDI KLUM



HOLLY MARIE COMBS

She just got married!



DENISE RICHARDS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: WARNER BROS./NBC; CHRIS HASTON/NBC; MONLY BRINTON/ABC; FAME; LISA O'CONNOR/ZUMA; GILBERT FLORE/SCIENCE PICTURE CO.; AP/WIDE WORLD; X17; FAME; DENISE TRUSS/CELEBRITYPHOTO.COM; AP/WIDE WORLD; AP/WIDE WORLD

again. "Babies are always a good sign," says Marcia, who also has a daughter, Eulala, 5, with filmmaker Thaddaeus Scheel, 39.

Of course, all the drama doesn't end once the baby is born. After gaining 75 pounds during her pregnancy, Kate Hudson still needs to drop 40 to shoot *The Skeleton Key* in April. Not an easy task, since the actress' C-section birth in January prevented her from seriously working out until a week ago. But, like these thrilled moms-to-be, Kate isn't sweating it. Just holding her beautiful son, Ryder Russell, makes it clear that it's all worth it.



"I'm no spring chicken," says Marcia. "But my husband and I wanted more children."



▲ Kate, with son Ryder, gets "incredible support" from husband Chris Robinson.

Moms-to-be go undercover!

They're pregnant in real life, but their TV characters are not. Props like coats and couches help to hide the bump.



◀ **Friends:** Production ended before Courteney hit her big-bellied months, but producers still hid her slight hid her slight bump with a little help from loose-fitting shirts and coats.

▶ **Will & Grace:** "I have lots of shopping bags, pocketbooks and coats that cover my tummy," says Debra, whose bump is also sometimes disguised by well-placed furniture.



◀ **The King of Queens:** Even though Leah says she looks "preggo," her character isn't with child, so there's "a lot of me behind couches and holding plants." Big purses also come in handy!

Matt's a daddy!

Days after Matt LeBlanc filmed his final scenes for *Friends*, the 36-year-old actor landed a new role: Daddy.

On February 8, Matt's wife, Melissa, 38, gave birth to their daughter, Marina — who weighed a healthy 7 pounds, 8 ounces — at an LA hospital.

"Matt is so happy," a close friend told *In Touch*. "His chest is puffed out as big as it can be, and he's handing out cigars to everybody, even total strangers!" Matt quickly delivered the news to his

co-stars, but "the first person he called when the baby was born was his mom, Pat, who's been holding her breath waiting for the impending birth," says the friend.

After growing up as an only child with no father in the home, Matt always yearned for a big family. When he met Melissa, he threw himself into being a great stepdad to her two kids — Tyler, 13, and Jacquelyn, 9 — from a previous marriage. But nothing could have prepared him for the birth of his child.



▲ Matt married model Melissa McKnight in Hawaii in May 2003.



A friend says Matt, here with stepdaughter Jacquelyn, is "amazing with the kids."

According to sources at the hospital, Matt's voice could be heard throughout the corridors crowing, "She's a beauty! She's so tiny! I love her!"