

"The 100 Most Influential People," *Time*, May 5, 2014.

TIME 100 ICONS

## Marina Abramovic

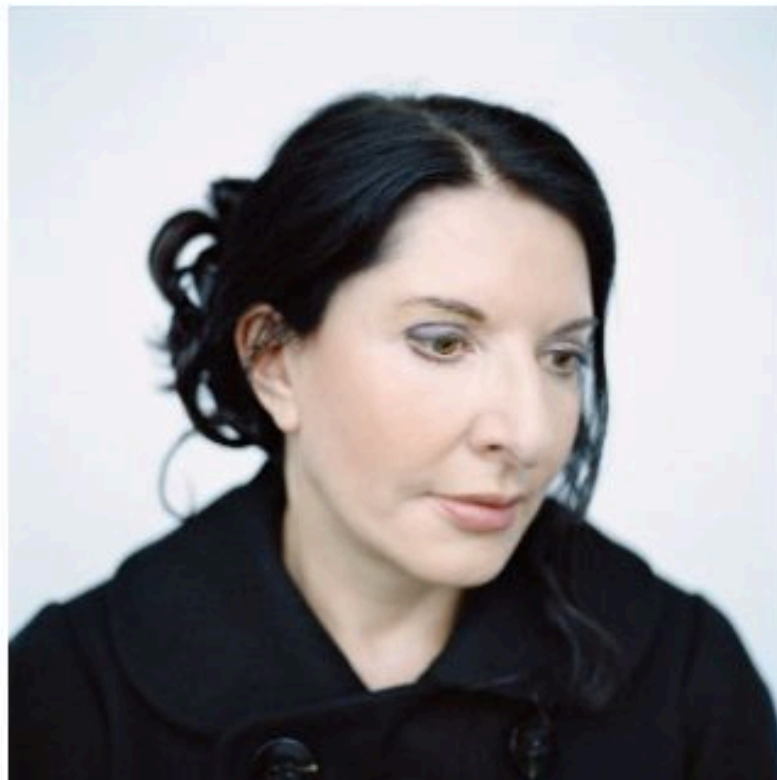
By James Franco

April 23, 2014



### The presiding deity of performance art

Marina was someone I studied in my contemporary art history class at UCLA. She had already made her mark with her indelible performance pieces, especially *Rhythm 0*, which had her presenting an array of items (a rose, a pen, a scalpel, honey, a feather, a gun and a bullet) and allowing the audience to do anything to her body with them. Eventually someone put the bullet in the gun, placed it in her hand and pointed it at her head. The violence of the audience was revealed. In *The Artist Is Present*, her seminal piece at MOMA, she revealed the sadness of the audience as she sat across from them for nearly three months and absorbed their pain. Marina most powerful is Marina most simple, Marina as Marina. I love the simple Marina, the powerful Marina, when the artist is present within her.



Christopher Wahi—Contour/Getty Images

I trust Marina to carve the artist out of her celebrity and use her celebrity to bring what she stands for into the here and now, looking straight into the eyes of all of us, strangers still, but courageous, curious, inspired, creative participants afterward.

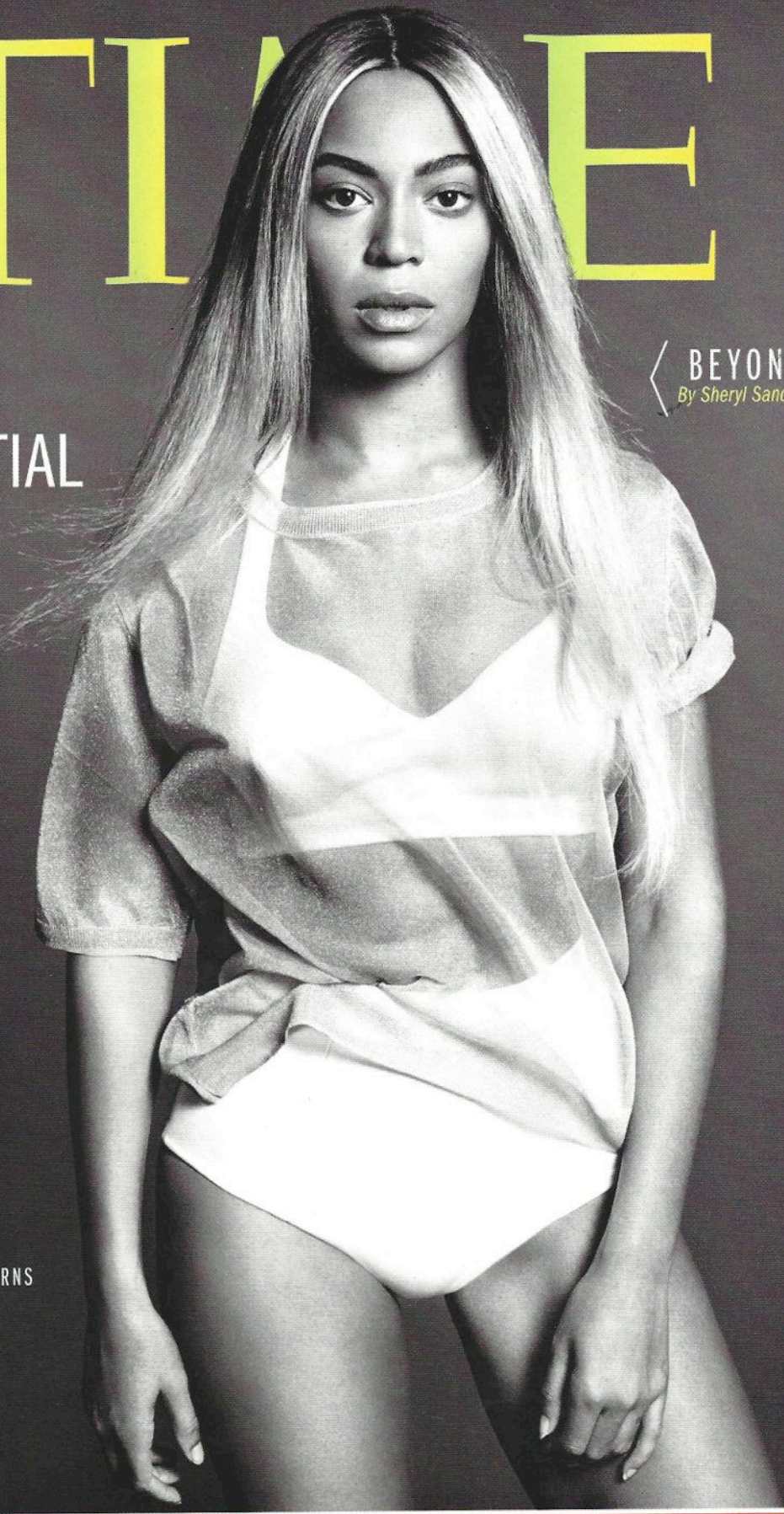
*Franco, an actor, artist, writer and producer, is currently appearing in Of Mice and Men on Broadway* ■



# THE 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

# TIME

BEYONCÉ  
*By Sheryl Sandberg*



- JANET YELLEN  
*By Christine Lagarde*
- VLADIMIR PUTIN  
*By Madeleine Albright*
- NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA  
*By Bono*
- CARL ICAHN  
*By T. Boone Pickens*
- RAND PAUL  
*By Mitch McConnell*
- KERRY WASHINGTON  
*By Valerie Jarrett*
- CRISTIANO RONALDO  
*By Pelé*
- POPE FRANCIS  
*By Barack Obama*

**PLUS**

- NARENDRA MODI
- MICHELLE BACHELET
- STEVE McQUEEN
- JACK MA
- BARACK OBAMA
- LYDIA KO
- ANGELA MERKEL
- EDWARD SNOWDEN
- CHRISTY TURLINGTON BURNS
- ALICE WATERS
- MARINA ABRAMOVIC
- MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY
- CARRIE UNDERWOOD
- ARUNDHATI ROY
- HASSAN ROUHANI
- JENJI KOHAN





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# MARINA ABRAMOVIC

The presiding deity of performance art

BY JAMES FRANCO

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SOCCER PLAYER • 29

# CRISTIANO RONALDO

Portugal's game winner

BY PELÉ

Cristiano Ronaldo is one of the most influential athletes in sports today. I greatly respect his competitive mind-set on the field, and it's no surprise that he is currently considered the best soccer player in the world. I had the opportunity to share his joy onstage at this year's FIFA Ballon d'Or ceremony in Zurich. Cristiano never ceases to give his best for his national team. He reminds me a bit of my late friend and Portuguese soccer legend Eusébio. They have the same elegance and creativity. Back when I played, I would have loved having a teammate like Cristiano to play with up front. I would like to encourage him to keep up the hard work and to continue to fuel the passion for the sport among today's youth. Also, I wish him the best this summer at the World Cup in Brazil. But if Portugal goes to the final against Brazil, I'm sorry, Cristiano, but I want Brazil to win.

*Pelé won three World Cups as a member of the Brazilian team*



ABRAMOVIC: CHRISTOPHER WALKER/GETTY IMAGES; RONALDO: VICTOR CARRETERO—REAL MADRID/GETTY IMAGES