



The funny,  
filthy,  
*fearless*  
new voice of  
FEMINISM

Undeniably hilarious and dazzingly talented, Amy “I’m an unflinching feminist” Schumer talks to CLEO’s **Kara Byers** about taking over the world.

**A**my Schumer is everything right now. Of course, there’s a small chance you might not have heard of her yet, but there’s an even bigger chance you’re about to love her just as much as Lena Dunham, Mindy Kaling, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and co.

She’s been slaying it on the US stand-up comedy scene since 2007 – and it’s Amy’s brand of brassy, ballsy confidence and acerbic, en pointe pick-aparts of female experiences, gender inequality and human behaviour that has cemented her status as comedy’s Next Big Thing. Her career kicked up a notch thanks to *Inside Amy Schumer*, the sketch show she co-created, exec-produces, writes for and stars in. The show became an Emmy-nominated ratings triumph soon after its 2013 debut, not to mention a viral sensation shared on millions of Facebook timelines everywhere.

But Amy’s defining moment is happening this year and we’re glad to be in the front seat. In April, she hosted the MTV Movie Awards

(and totally smashed it) and this month her first feature film, *Trainwreck* (your new *Bridesmaids*-esque quotable obsession), hits cinemas.

The movie, which Amy wrote and stars in, follows the exploits of a writer who enjoys a commitment-free life (read: one night stands on the reg). That is, until she meets charming doctor Aaron Connors (Bill Hader) who sends her “monogamy is not realistic” mantra spinning.

It’s not even out yet and the flick has been a hit with audiences and critics at previews across the globe. If the hype leads to burns on cinema seats, it will place Schumer in the same league as box-office-busting big guns like Kristen Wiig and Melissa McCarthy. And perhaps best of all, she’s a “I don’t take no shit from anybody” feminist. She says, “I didn’t mean to become a beacon of feminism, but I’m really embracing it. I’m an unflinching feminist so it makes sense to me. It’s the cause I’m most interested in helping.” So, how does it feel to be on the cusp of worldwide renown not only for your craft but as a crusader for equal rights?



WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING FAMOUS?

“I think I’ve been famous for, like, months. So I don’t know yet. One time, somebody gave my table free appetisers at a restaurant. I couldn’t eat them because cheese makes me fart, but everyone at the table was really impressed.”

WHY DO YOU THINK EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT FEMINISM AGAIN?

“I think there’s been a real surge because younger starlets – well, in America anyway – have said that they aren’t. There have been some who’ve said, ‘I’m not a feminist’ but I truly believe they don’t know what it means because that’s crazy. Like, what ancient, archaic weirdos are walking around thinking that we all shouldn’t be equal?”

HOW AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WOULD YOU SAY *TRAINWRECK* IS?

“It’s 50 per cent autobiographical.”

THE MOVIE IS DIRECTED BY JUDD APATOW. HOW DID YOU GUYS COME TO WORK TOGETHER?

“He heard me on Howard Stern [radio show]. He wanted to meet and we just hit it off. He was like, ‘If you ever have an idea, let me know,’ and I was like, ‘Yeah, I have an idea.’ So I wrote a movie and he was like, ‘Why don’t you write a really personal one?’ And I wrote *Trainwreck*.”

**“Like, what ancient, archaic weirdos are walking around thinking that we all shouldn’t be equal?”**

BILL HADER IS YOUR CO-STAR. DID YOU HAVE A HAND IN CASTING HIM?

“Judd was Bill’s champion. I’d never met Bill before but once he auditioned, I was like, ‘Oh my God, there is no-one else who can play this role.’ He was so perfect.”

IT’S BEEN SAID YOUR CHARACTER HAS AN ACT-LIKE-A-MAN ATTITUDE. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

“That’s not been my experience at all. This is how I am and how a lot of girls are where the guy ends up being a little more sensitive and emotionally invested.”

IF YOU WERE ASKED TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

“Let’s think... Fearless. Funny and... evolving.” ➤

DID YOU FIND IT MUCH OF A JUMP TO GO FROM *INSIDE AMY SCHUMER* INTO MOVIES? "I'm a little bit of a commitment-phobe, so to know I was shooting for 50-plus days was different; the show shoots for 30. And to play the same character... I really liked it. I like Bill."

YOU'VE BEEN CALLED A TRAILBLAZER. WHAT DOES THAT WORD MEAN TO YOU? "I'm just making observations and being honest about them and myself. It'll be cool when people called 'trailblazers' would be more the norm. It's a huge compliment but also makes me feel like we have work to do."

IF YOU WERE WRITING THIS STORY FOR A MAGAZINE, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT IT TO SAY? "That I was born with the perfect pussy. [Laughs] No, I would want it to say... Tilda Swinton wrote a poem about me for *TIME*'s 100 Most Influential People and I loved what she wrote, so I'd probably quote her because it's too embarrassing to talk about yourself."

WHO ARE YOUR INSPIRATIONS IN LIFE? "Caitlyn Jenner. Gloria Steinem. Leesa Evans – she did the wardrobe on *Trainwreck*. People who are great at what they do, love it and do it for the right reasons. And, Miss Piggy."

YOU'RE SELF-DEPRECATING IN YOUR STAND-UP GIGS – DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE TO BE? "It comes naturally. I was at an awards show last night, I got an award and like, I'm eating my lamb, looking at Rose Whitley, Huntington-Whitestorm [Rosie Huntington-Whiteley] and I'm like, 'What?' It just happens."

HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU'RE ON STAGE? "Powerful."

**"Amy's got your back. She's in your corner. She's an honest bomb. And, she's coming for you."**

AS TILDA SWINTON WROTE ABOUT AMY FOR *TIME*'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE.

IS IT WEIRD WITH SO MANY PEOPLE WATCHING? "Right now, I'm doing theatres and it's usually a couple thousand people. The energy is amazing. I look out and I think, 'They're here to see me,' and I know I've brought material that's going to make them laugh. I say my first joke and I get that first laugh. I feel good."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF YOUR EMMY-NOMINATED SHOW? "Very surprised and elated! They didn't think it was going to work on that network [*Comedy Central*]. It was a super male-dominated, male demographic network."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE THERE AT THE EMMY'S CEREMONY ON THE NIGHT? WEARING A FANCY DRESS, WALKING DOWN THE RED CARPET... "It was boring! It was so boring and long. It felt like a punishment. I'm serious, it was torture."

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAMEO ROLE IN *GIRLS*. "That was really fun. It was cool getting to see Lena work and direct on her set. It gave me the confidence to direct my own show."

YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF GUEST STARS ON YOUR SHOW, LIKE TINA FEY. IS THERE ANYONE WHO YOU WANTED THAT YOU COULDN'T GET? "Daniel Day Lewis said no – I don't know why. Nah, I'm just kidding. More people are willing to do the show now. I think it's all thanks to Paul Giamatti – he was the first person."

MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS A HOT TOPIC IN AUSTRALIA RIGHT NOW BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE IT HERE. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT IT? "Nooo! Come on, guys! I totally believe in marriage equality. I also believe in somebody having the right to not get married." ➔

WORDS: KARA BYERS. PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY IMAGES, YOUTUBE, ALAMY, UNIVERSAL PICTURES.



# f IS FOR FACEPALM

THESE POOR GALS DON'T QUITE HAVE THE WHOLE FEMINISM-AS-EQUAL-RIGHTS THING LOCKED DOWN. SIGH.



"I am not a feminist, but I do believe in the strength of women." – KATY PERRY



"I'm not a feminist. I hail men, I love men, I celebrate American male culture – beer, bars, and muscle cars." – LADY GAGA



"I wouldn't say feminist – that's too strong. When people hear feminist, it's like, 'I don't need anyone.' I love that I'm taken care of and have a man that's a leader." – KELLY CLARKSON



"I wouldn't go so far as to say I'm a feminist, that can come off as a negative connotation. But I'm a strong female." – CARRIE UNDERWOOD ➔

## AMY'S VIRAL MOMENTS

HARDLY A WEEK GOES BY THAT A SKETCH FROM *INSIDE AMY SCHUMER* DOESN'T GET SHARED MILLIONS OF TIMES – BUT WHAT DOES AMY SAY ABOUT HER POPULAR SKITS?

### LAST F\*CKABLE DAY

Amy joins Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Tina Fey and Patricia Arquette as they all celebrate Julia no longer having to maintain her figure (she's now 'too old' to be a sex symbol). Amy says, "That was one of the funnest days of all time. Jessi Klein [co-writer] and I had been trying to get the scene made for three years and a lot of actresses had passed on it."



### COMPLIMENTS

Women can be bad at accepting praise, like one in this skit who, after having her hair praised, says, "I tried to look like Kate Hudson and ended up looking like a golden retriever's dingleberry." Amy comments on this: "I think mostly 100 per cent of women do that – including myself. It's really hard. To just say thank you, it's almost unheard of."



### MILK MILK LEMONADE

Method Man, Amber Rose and a few other choice guests join Amy in a hip-hop tribute to women's derrieres. "I couldn't believe that those guest stars said yes," Amy explains. "It came up in the writers' room because of this being the year of the ass. It was embarrassing to pretend to rap but it was really fun to dance with those girls."



### THE UNIVERSE

Bill Nye and *Broad City*'s Abbi Jacobson and Ilana Glazer help Amy explain women in their twenties channelling the Universe. "I'm guilty of using that phrasing, and it's an insane megalomaniac idea to be like 'Just putting it out in the universe and it manifests'. The universe does not care about you. And Bill Nye coming on board – the dream," Amy tells us.



Watch these sketches on CLEO's YouTube channel by downloading the free *viewa* app and hold your phone or tablet here.



THE EQUALITY ISSUE AUSTRALIA, WAKE UP!

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