

A Conversation With Actress Eva Longoria

Written by Kam Williams

Monday, 06 February 2012 16:53



Born on March 15, 1975, [Eva Jacqueline Longoria](#) was the youngest of four sisters raised by her parents on a ranch in Corpus Christi, Texas. She earned a BS in Kinesiology at Texas A&M, before being spotted by a talent scout who brought her to Hollywood.

The 5'2" Latina settled for bit parts on such soap operas as *General Hospital*, *The Young and the Restless* and *Beverly Hills 90210* until she

landed a recurring role on the short-lived revival of *Dragnet* in 2003.

Longoria's fortunes would change dramatically the very next year, when she was signed to play wanton adulteress Gabrielle Solis on *Desperate Housewives*. The show became a runaway hit, turning Longoria into an overnight sensation who currently commands a cool quarter million

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dollars per episode. Longoria is apparently earning every penny of her salary, having been knocked unconscious on the set for four minutes by a pole which fell on her head. The show was a smash hit not only in America, but also around the world, commanding audiences in the millions and selling DVD box-sets by the truck-load. The audience was extremely varied, and whether people Play online bingo as they watch or sit with popcorn, the audience figures remain strong.

Most folks don't know that Eva also headlines a stand-up variety show at The Comedy Store in L.A. and at other clubs around the country called Hot Tamales Live, accompanied by a bevy of Latin American comedienne's including Kiki Melendez and Tess. Among her many celebrity endorsements are ones with Hanes, New York & Company, plus a \$2.36 million deal with L'Oreal and others.

Longoria was Named #1 on Maxim Magazine's Hot 100 List of 2005, and a steamy shot of her in a bikini graced the cover of its 100th issue. Furthermore, the magazine commissioned an artist to paint a super-sized, 75' by 100' reproduction of the picture in the desert where it is visible from outer space via satellite.

As for her personal life, since divorcing her husband Tyler Christopher in 2005, the Mexican-American man-eater's dating pool has included boy band 'N Sync's JC Chasez, and actor boy toys Hayden Christensen, Butch Klein, Kiefer Sutherland, and Sean Faris. However, she has been romantically-linked to Tony Parker, the point guard of the San Antonio Spurs. She even admitted to having the flying Frenchman's initials tattooed in an intimate area of her body. Now, the couple is divorced.

Here, Eva talks about her movie, *The Sentinel*, a political potboiler about a traitor in the ranks of the Secret Service where she plays an Agent opposite Kiefer Sutherland, and Academy Award-winners Michael Douglas and Kim Basinger.

This interview was conducted in 2006.

KAM WILLIAMS TALKS TO EVA LONGORIA:

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Kam Williams (KW): How does it feel knowing you can be seen in a skimpy bikini from outer space?

Eva Jacqueline Longoria (EL): [Laughs] I'm really nervous, because if an alien is passing by and happens to see my picture, he's going to come looking for me. But it was fun. I was really honored. Maxim was celebrating its 100th issue, and they teamed up with Google Earth and Las Vegas to paint my picture on a football field. So, technically, I have the biggest ass in the world.

KW: Have you flown over it leaving Las Vegas?

EL: No, I wonder if I could see it if I was flying to Vegas. I got to check that out next time I go there.

KW: You've been added to the list of landmarks you can see from the air, like The Great Wall of China.

EL: Yes, I'm the Eighth Wonder of the World.

KW: How did you like the change of pace of making an action flick like The Sentinel?

EL: Fun! Fun! Well, first of all, just even going from a set full of estrogen to one full of testosterone was exciting to me. I found it exhilarating, because I don't get to do that every day. And that was the whole point of picking a movie. I wanted to do something completely opposite of Gabrielle and *Desperate Housewives*. And I found it in Jill Marin.

KW: Was it a hard character for you to play?

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EL: No, actually, she's a lot closer to who I am as a person. I'm a tomboy. I love shooting guns and running around. To be able to do that in the movie was just like vacation to me, instead of getting dressed up or putting on lingerie.

KW: What does it feel like to go in a couple of years from an aspiring actress to a celebrity whose every date is being monitored by the tabloids?

EL: I can't articulate it. That's funny, because it's the most asked question I get. How does it feel? I don't know. Overwhelming would be a good word, but it doesn't accurately describe everything that's happened in the past two and a half years. It's just been a roller coaster of ups. It's like I can't keep up with all the good news.

KW: So, there's nothing you'd like to undo?

EL: No, I don't regret anything I do, ever, whether articles I've done or things I've said. And as far as what's happened in the past, I wouldn't take anything back. People think I'm an overnight success with *Desperate Housewives*, but I was working for eight years. And they ask if there's a movie I wish I hadn't done. There isn't, because everything that I've done in the past has built my character. All the rejections have been a bonus for me. Eva Mendez and I met at the audition for *Spanglish*. And neither of us got it, obviously. I ran into her a year or two later, and she said, 'Isn't it funny, if I had gotten *Spanglish*, I couldn't have done *Hitch*.' And if I had done *Spanglish*, I wouldn't have done *Desperate Housewives*. I always think everything's for a reason, everything is meant to be. So, I'm very grateful, and always reflecting on that.

KW: Were you stereotyped early in your career and mostly offered roles like the one you auditioned for in *Spanglish* where you would've played a Mexican maid?

EL: I have been blessed that I wasn't pigeonholed into that. Those roles didn't come to me because I didn't have an accent. They'd ask, 'Couldn't you do it a little more feisty, fiery, Latin.' I'd respond with, 'I'm sorry, were you getting Jewish fire? Because I am Latin.' Even though I am very tied to and close to my heritage, I learned Spanish in college, I didn't grow up with it. Growing up in South Texas is different from Miami or L.A. where it is a necessity to speak Spanish.

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KW: Did you know Desperate Housewives was going to be a big hit?

EL: We were just excited to get picked up for a second year after the first two episodes aired. That was kind of unheard of. So, we felt, 'Wow, we're going to have jobs for a while.' But we didn't realize that it was going to be a phenomenon or a worldwide hit. We were all surprised by the obsession with the show and the enormity that it became.

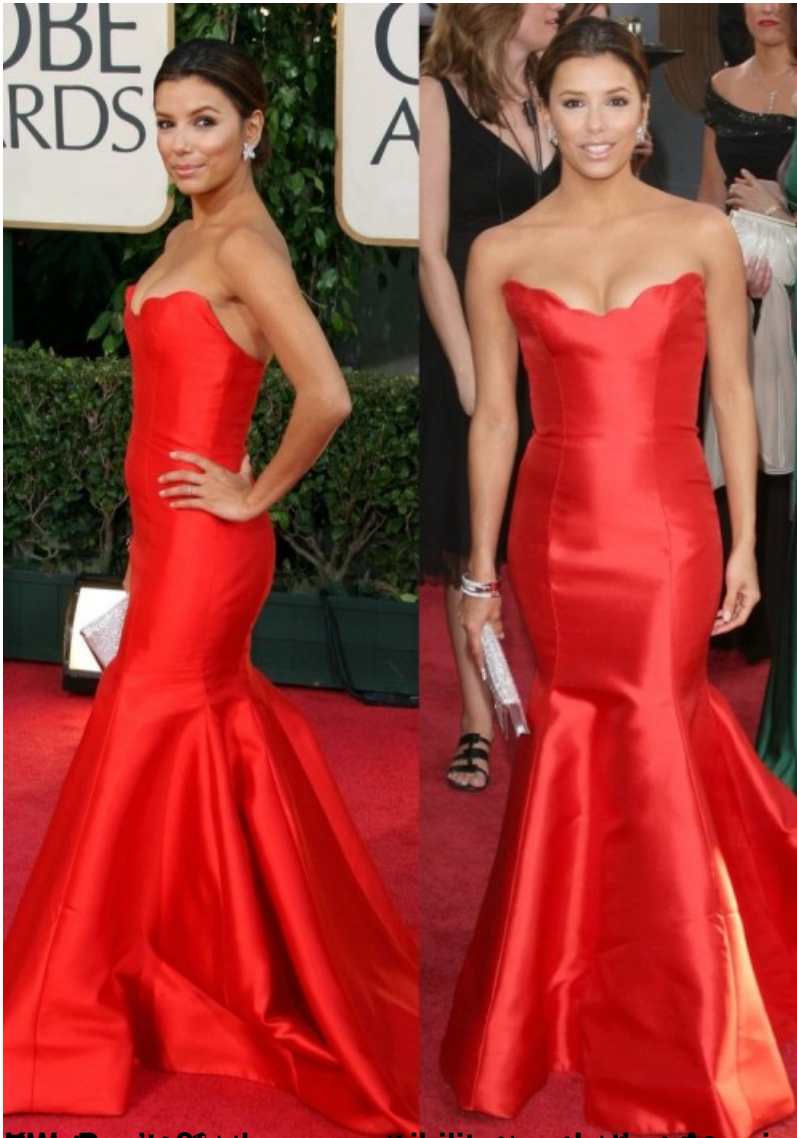
KW: You've certainly come a long way financially from your days as a struggling actress on soap operas.□□

EL: I was making almost minimum wage on The Young and the Restless. But it was my first job, so I accepted my first quote. I had a great time on it, and it obviously led me to better things.

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