



IMTA ALUM EVA LONGORIA RETURNS TO SERIES TV IN “TELANOVELA”

IMTA Press Release
December 7, 2015

“*Telenovela*” sneak peek on Monday, December 7 on NBC, 10ET/9CT

“The way these writers write is my kind of funny. I love physical comedy — I love big, broad comedies that can appeal to everyone and that deal with universal themes. The world we’re in is specific, but the themes we deal with are pretty universal.” – Eva Longoria

Since “*Desperate Housewives*” ended its eight-year run in 2012, IMTA alum Eva Longoria has filled her time producing (“*Devious Maids*,” *John Wick*, *Food Chains*), starring in feature films (*Any Day*, *Frontera*, *Visions*), and doing occasional guest appearances on TV (“*Brooklyn Nine-Nine*,” “*The Simpsons*,” “*Mother Up*”). She is set to return to prime-time TV in January with the ensemble comedy “*Telenovela*,” that goes behind the scenes of a Spanish-language TV show and its star, whose off-camera life rivals the drama of her on-screen story lines. As a teaser for the series, which will move to its regular Monday spot on January 4th at 8:30pm, NBC offers a 2-episode sneak peek of the show tonight.



Longoria is in the role of Ana Sophia, the star of the long-running Spanish-language soap, who tries to hide the fact that she can’t actually speak Spanish. In an effort to boost the ratings of the show, the handsome network chief re-unites her with her TV star ex-husband who supposedly cheated on her with Shakira. The ensemble also includes the show’s one-time ingénue who has been moved toward mother roles—but does not give up being the diva—and the gay co-star who rips his shirt open whenever someone from the network happens to visit the set (referring to his six-pack abs as “job security”), among others.

“I’ve *always* wanted to be in an ensemble show,” Longoria says. “‘*Housewives*’ was an ensemble show, and after ‘*Housewives*’ I was offered script after script after script that was like, ‘You’re the lead! You’d be the lead! You’re the lead!’ and I was like, ‘But I want an *ensemble* show!’ I fought to make sure we’re all on the poster, I fought to make sure that we’re all in the promos — because I want America to know this is a show about all of these people, not just a show about Ana Sophia.” In addition to Longoria, the cast includes Jencarlos Canela, Diana Maria Riva, Jose



Moreno Brooks, Alex Meneses, Amaury Nolasco, Jadyn Maria and Izzy Diaz.

“*Telenovela*” is not the only current project for Longoria. The Longoria-produced Lifetime hit “*Devious Maids*” has been renewed for a fourth season and will return in 2016. She recently filmed the feature *Low Riders*, a look at the lives of enthusiasts of the re-emerging low-riding culture in Southern

California's Latino communities, which is also scheduled to be released in 2016. And she has been announced as a guest during the fourth season of the Jane Lynch-hosted “*Hollywood Game Night*” when it returns in January.