



# IMTA ALUM EVA LONGORIA CROSSES THE *FRONTERA*

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*Frontera* opens in limited release Friday, September 5; currently available on VOD

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“Spanish is actually my third language, after English and French.” – Eva Longoria

No matter where you stand on the current immigration issues between the US and Mexico, it is difficult not to be touched in some way by the stories of immigrants on their harrowing and dangerous journeys across the border to seek a new life. It is also not difficult to relate to the stories of the landowners across whose property immigrants travel and the men and women charged with upholding the law along the border. Trying to understand both sides serves as the background for *Frontera*, in which Miguel, a hardworking father and devoted husband, crosses the border illegally and is wrongfully accused of murdering the wife of a former sheriff. Miguel’s pregnant wife Paulina lands in the hands of corrupt Mexican “Coyote” smugglers as she tries to help her husband, while the ex-lawman investigates his wife’s death and unearths evidence that could destroy one family’s future.



IMTA alum Eva Longoria (LA98) stars in *Frontera*’s ensemble cast as Paulina, alongside Michael Peña as Miguel, Ed Harris as the ex-sheriff and Amy Madigan as his ill-fated wife. “When my agent said, ‘You gotta read this,’ I just thought, Oh, another script about the border,” Longoria told *Backstage* in an interview. “But I read it and thought, Oh my God, this I have to do. I didn’t want to do any kind of story that villainized either side of the border. But this is a beautiful love story set against this border issue that we’re going through right now in our country. It doesn’t have a statement—it just humanizes the issue.”

“I’m very literate on the topic of immigration, so I welcome the conversation,” Longoria said. “I think there’s a lot of misinformation out there on the subject, and so I always welcome the opportunity to educate



anybody about it.” She added that she has been to the border many times and rode with border patrol agents. “We talked to all sides, and the common denominator is everybody wants legal immigration. Everybody, both sides. It’s economically imperative to our country. I think there’s a moral imperative, but even if you don’t agree with that, at least we can all agree there’s an economic imperative that needs to get done.”

Longoria has been extremely busy since “*Desperate Housewives*” ended two years ago. In addition to completing her Master’s degree in Chicano Studies, she started the Eva Longoria Foundation which helps Latinas through education and entrepreneurship, serves as an Executive Producer on Lifetime’s “*Devious Maids*” and directed the first episode of Season 2. She has filmed roles in three other films currently in production, although none have scheduled release dates: the romantic drama *Refugio*, the drama *Any Day*, and the horror thriller *Visions*. Longoria also will appear in a three-episode arc this fall on “*Brooklyn Nine-Nine*,” playing a defense attorney who battles series star Andy Samberg in court, and catching his eye in the process.

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