

IMTA ALUM EVA LONGORIA IN *DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD*



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Dora and the Lost City of Gold opens nationwide Friday, August 9

“I was too old when Dora came out. I was already past that stage of watching cartoons, but boy, did she have an impact on me even though I didn’t watch it regularly. Everybody knew who Dora was, especially in the Hispanic community, and everything that she represented on a mainstream television [show]: to see this little girl speaking Spanish, and she was brown like us, and she was positive!”

— Eva Longoria Bastón

Raise your hand if you remember when “*Dora the Explorer*” made her debut on Nickelodeon in 2000. She was the first animated Latina character in a leading role, and remains the star of the longest-running American TV show featuring characters speaking Spanish. Now, 19 years later, the live-action *Dora and the Lost City of Gold* gets the big-screen treatment in a family action-adventure that is breaking boundaries and stereotypes.



Having spent most of her life exploring the jungle with her parents, nothing could prepare Dora for her most dangerous adventure ever: high school. Always the explorer, Dora quickly finds herself leading Boots, Diego, a mysterious jungle inhabitant, and a ragtag group of teens on a mission to save her parents and solve the impossible mystery behind a lost Inca civilization. The film stars IMTA alum Eva Longoria alongside Michael Peña, Benicio Del Toro, Danny Trejo, Eugenio Derbez, and Isabela Moner as Dora.

“Whenever people think that a woman needs to be strong, they think that she has no emotions, is super serious...but Dora loves pink, she wears orange shorts, she loves dancing to Gloria Estefan, she's super girly,” Moner said. “It's important to break up the stereotype that women have to act like men in order to be strong.”

Featuring a teenage Latina lead and an almost all-Latinx cast, “Dora” is already being hailed for promoting representation among blockbuster releases. Longoria, who plays Dora’s mother, Elena, told *The Hollywood Reporter* that being part of an all-Latino cast made sense for the movie and for the source material. “If you think about Dora being Latina, you automatically get to populate her world with Latinos. There was no forcing or checking the box of diversity if you represent Dora and her natural culture.”

Director James Bobin is hoping that story changes made during the adaptation process, which includes aging up Dora from a 6-year-old to a teenager, will appeal to a broader audience while still resonating with the Nickelodeon cartoon’s fanbase. “When I read the script, I realized that they (writers Nicolas Stoller and Matthew Robinson) were doing a very clever thing by making her the same person now at sixteen as she was at six. It’s a charming way of getting into the movie and there were so many great opportunities for comedy. She’s grown up with the audience but she hasn’t changed, even if they have, and that’s kind of great.”



Longoria, who is set to make her feature-film directorial debut with the female comedy *24/7* co-starring Kerry Washington, is also an Executive Producer, director and star of the new ABC hit series “*Grand Hotel*.” She will next be seen in the 2020 romantic drama *Sylvie* that also stars Tessa Thompson, Lance Riddick and Wendy McLendon-Covey.