

## *Sarahi Diaz*

Buzz



### **What attracted you to acting?**

Looking back on my life, I think I've always been a performer and acting for me is the most complete form of performing. You have to use all of yourself. Your mind, body and most of all your car. ... man do you have to drive.

### **Why acting?**

It's very personal, nothing comes that close to the real you.



**Why are you passionate about it?**

It's the only thing that thrills and scares the heck out of me.

**Did you always want to be an actor?**

No, I always wanted to entertain and make people laugh. I didn't find out what it was until later.



### **What was your 1st acting job?**

Well I don't know if you would call it acting, but I think it was because I really had to get into character, I was a human "mannequin" for an underwear store at the International mall in Miami. The job consisted of me wearing a tiny nightgown and standing on a square box outside of the store, frozen in place. I would freeze for about 2 minutes and then change my pose. Kids used to come close to see if I was real and when I would move they would run screaming to tell their parents. It was very amusing at first but then after an hour your muscles start to twitch and you start to realize that \$100/hr doesn't sound that good anymore. So now, when I see Silver man doing his show in bayside I think, "Oh yeah, try doing that half naked and in six inch heels buddy!"

### **Tell us about your best audition.**

Well it was actually the other day. I had a last minute audition and they wanted me to improvise. The character was a high end salon owner who has to deal with a nasty neighbor. The situation begins to escalate and so does her temper. Well let's just say I let them have it, literally. I was so in the moment that I took off my shoe, Ghetto style, and threw it at the director (made sure to pitch under the table and to the wall) It was awesome! But what made it even more special was that they told me I had the part! Right on the spot. That's never happened to me before. It's nice to know right away and not have to go home and wonder for the rest of the week.



### **Tell us about your worst audition.**

When I first moved to LA, I was taking an acting class and the teacher's brother just happened to be auditioning for Selena the Musical. Now why this woman thought I was ready for such a thing is beyond me. But I thought "well, if she thinks I can, then I can." I remember I got there and they were all very nice and patient. The director asked me if I had a song prepared and I told him that I had practiced one on my way there, so I began to sing the only Selena song I remembered (the only singing I had done previous

to that was at my house on my karaoke machine) Well I guess it wasn't too bad cause he asked me to go and rehearse the dance steps. There was a professional choreographer who would show you the steps once slow and then she would turn on the song and we had to follow along to the music. After the fourth time, I began to realize that I might get this routine if I had a month or so to practice, but not in the next 20 minutes. It was very disappointing, but I realized that you have to be prepared. Take the dancing and singing classes before you need them, be ready for when that opportunity comes. Be prepared.



Sarahi & Luis Gusman



Sarahi & Steven Bauer



Sarahi & Tony Plana

**What do you love about this business?**

That after shooting a great scene you can enjoy a gourmet lunch, under a tree in the middle of a post office parking lot, with a unique group of people who do and love the same thing you do and the rest of the world just drives by wondering what the heck you are doing.

**What do you dislike about this business?**

There is a lot of politics going on that we don't know about. The best actor doesn't always get the job.

**What do you prefer drama or comedy?**

Comedy. The feeling you get when you make someone laugh, it's indescribable. The best gift you can give is to make someone laugh.



### **When did you start writing?**

I never realized it before but I guess I've always done it. Whenever I heard a funny joke or thought of a funny situation I would write it down in my agenda. Usually just so that I wouldn't forget it but not because I thought I would do anything with it.

### **Why writing?**

A lot of the time you can't say it, but you feel strongly enough about it not to just let it go, let it be forgotten. So you write it down.





Sarahi & Wilmer Valderrama

**Why are you passionate about it?**

It's an artistic outlet for me. I can share my perspective, through my sense of humor.

**Did you always want to be a writer?**

No. I was an average student in school and I thought that to be a writer you had to be an intellectual. Writing was not to be done lightly. So I stuck to acting and improvisation.





### **What was your 1st writing job?**

A TV show called "El Vacilon" which was like SNL in Spanish. The cast of writer/performers consisted of Yamil Piedra, Johnny Trabanco, Alvaro Ruiz, Casper Martinez, our wonderful director Agustin and I (and let me add: I was the only girl in the group). We had to write and perform our own sketches, but it didn't end there. Since it was a low budget show, we also had to come up with our own costumes, set design and hair. I was juggling my two kids (Abbey and Hannah, 2 and 4 years old respectively), acting, teaching and making dinner every night. It was pretty intense, but I loved it! I was inspired. It was like going to TV boot camp where I learned how to write, perform, costume design, and what my strengths were, all in the span of a year. It was an incredible experience. I was very fortunate to work and learn from such a talented group. Amazingly enough, I can say I received an Emmy for the first writing job I ever

did. Now I realize why I had been saving all those funny stories and ideas all these years.



### **How did you feel when you won the Emmy?**

Well I have to tell you I was super happy just being nominated, and getting to go to the Emmy's, I mean What was I going to wear! But to actually win! It was absolutely surreal. I felt that God was telling me that he knew how hard I had worked.



What do you do for fun?

Karaoke !!!



**What are you passionate about besides acting/writing?**

Teaching. I teach acting and improv, mainly to kids and teens. I've been doing it for a couple of years now and I find it to be very rewarding, it just feeds my soul.

