

Viewties

A portrait of a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a vibrant red, deep V-neck dress with large, puffed sleeves. She is adorned with large, ornate silver earrings and has a soft, natural makeup look. The background is a plain, light gray.

Elena Sanchez.

Shot by Ben Cope

On the cover

Credits.

Talent. Elena Sanchez
Interview. Vanesa Miraglia
Photography. Ben Cope

Special Thanks.

Leah @ Icon PR

Staff.

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Elena Sanchez.

From indie gems to monumental blockbusters, Elena Sanchez's performances have left an indelible mark on the hearts of viewers worldwide. Born of German and Spanish heritage, Elena's artistic journey began in childhood, where the stage became her playground. Guided by destiny, she honed her craft at esteemed institutions and emerged as a force to be reckoned with, gracing the silver screen with her magnetic presence. Elena is soon to star alongside William Forsythe, Jeremy London, and Amber Reign Smith in *Open*, a film intertwining the surrealism of nostalgia with the complex reality of modern relationships.

In this intimate conversation, we delve into the depths of Elena Sanchez's artistic odyssey, including her experiences working on *Open*. With humility, grace, and a profound understanding of her craft, she invites us into her world, revealing the intricacies of her experiences and the profound impact they have had on her journey.



V: Your career has spanned a wide range of projects, from independent films to blockbuster franchises. How do you approach selecting roles that challenge and inspire you?

ES: There are two main factors that I consider when embarking on a new project. The first is, of course, the role. It has to be something that speaks to me in some way, either because it feels like “me,” or because it is something new that I am excited to try. The second factor I consider is the other people I would be working with. When you’re making a movie, you’re spending all day every day with the same people, sometimes for months at a time, so you want it to be people that you enjoy being around.

V: You have a diverse cultural background, being born to a German mother and Spanish father. How has your heritage influenced your approach to storytelling and the characters you portray?

ES: Growing up in three different countries and being around people of many cultures my entire life definitely sparked an interest in learning about people and how different, yet similar, we all are to one another. I’m fascinated by people! I’m interested in hearing their stories about love, life, and loss. Having the opportunity to then tell stories like that on screen is an incredible honor.

V: You’ve had the opportunity to work alongside some incredible actors, such as Nicolas Cage, Tom Cruise, and Sylvester Stallone. How has collaborating with these established talents helped you develop your own approach to acting?

ES: It’s really interesting seeing how different actors approach their job, and how their presence on set affects the entire cast and crew. All three of those actors are amazing, by the way! Working with different actors and directors has allowed me to be able to adapt to any kind of personality or situation that might arise at work. At this point, nothing can throw me off. Whether it’s an actor who wants to stay in character and improvise between takes to rehearse, or whether someone wants their space, I’m ready for whatever.

V: Your upcoming film, *Open*, explores the intertwining of surreal nostalgia and the complexities of modern relationships. Can you share your experience working on this project, including the challenges of portraying a character caught between a troubled marriage and hallucinated '80s music video paradise?

ES: *Open* was so much fun to work on! It’s unlike anything I’ve ever done. I’ve never done a musical before, and open relationships are not something I’m famil-

iar with in my life either. But it was the second project I’ve done with Miles Doleac and Lindsay Williams, so I felt safe enough to step out of my comfort zone. They had a vision of what they wanted to do, and I was excited to be along for the ride. Seeing it all come together while we were on set was amazing. When I saw the first shots of the first music video being filmed, I knew it was going to be something special.

V: What was it like learning to play the drums for your role as “Emma,” the drummer in the hallucinated band?

ES: It was hard! I had never played the drums before. I had to go from zero experience to trying to look like I knew what I was doing in about two months. I started off by ordering myself an electronic drum set on Amazon, and then I took lessons with a drum teacher. I played him recordings of the songs I had to play in the movie, and just by listening to them he was able to show me how I should be playing them. We didn’t get the final songs until the week before we started filming, so once we got to Mississippi to shoot, he even FaceTimed with me to fine-tune some of my playing and give me some last-minute encouragement. It was also helpful that some of our crewmembers played the drums, so they were able to give me some tips as well. Hopefully, between the magic of our director of photography and our editor, it looks like I know what I’m doing.

V: Can you share some insights into the challenges and joys you experienced while working on *Open*?

ES: The main challenge of working on an independent film is that there is never enough money to solve the problems that arise, and since I was a producer on *Open*, I was more aware of that side of things than if I had been just acting. However, the challenge of that turns into satisfaction and joy when you’ve come up with creative solutions to solve those problems. I also had to balance my responsibilities of being a producer with being an actor, so I had to make sure I was managing my time in a way that ensured I would be able to do a good job at both. Miles and Lindsay were such great role models in that respect, because they were not just juggling two different jobs, they were juggling four or five. I’m not sure how they do it!

V: With *Open*’s premiere just around the corner, what are your hopes and aspirations for this film and your portrayal of “Emma”?

ES: This movie is such a fun, weird and wacky ride, I just hope audiences like it and come out of it with a smile on their faces. It also has some emotionally difficult themes throughout the film, so I hope that the audi-

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ences feel that we did them justice in a creative way. And as far as Emma is concerned, I hope her drum-playing is acceptable to any drummers who may be watching the movie!

V: With your extensive experience in the industry, what changes have you observed in the film and television landscape throughout your career, and how do you see these changes impacting the future of storytelling?

ES: The main change I have observed is that there is no longer any difference in the quality of television vs. film. The production value of both has greatly increased, and at this point lots of TV shows cost more to make than a movie does. Another change I have noticed is that barely anything is shot on actual film anymore. When I was getting started, several of the movies I worked on were still shot on film, now almost everything is digital. Finally, I'm very excited to see that representation and diversity in film and television has greatly improved. We have a long way to go, but it's encouraging to see the steps that we are taking in the right direction.

V: Winning a Screen Actors Guild Award and receiving several nominations for your work must be incredibly gratifying. How do these recognitions motivate and inspire you to continue pushing boundaries in your career?

ES: It definitely feels nice to receive recognition in the form of awards. It makes you feel like you're doing something right! The idea or possibility of nominations or awards doesn't really inspire or motivate me day-to-day though... It's more of a bonus that I only really think about if or when it happens. I feel most motivated and inspired when someone shares with me how a specific movie helped them get through a tough time in their life, made them laugh, made them cry, or gave them confidence to find love or follow their dreams. That's what keeps me going and what makes me want to keep creating.

V: As we come to the end of our conversation, I'd love to hear your personal understanding and definition of success as an artist. In your opinion, what qualities or achievements do you believe are most valuable or indicative of true respect in the industry?

ES: That's an interesting question, because my personal definition of success as an artist is probably different to what the general public may consider success. I think a lot of artists feel this way: if we have spent another year being able to pay our bills by doing what we love, we are succeeding. And as far as respect is concerned, I think the most respected people in our industry are those who are not only incredibly talented, but are a joy to be around and treat everyone around them with kindness and love.



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