



**ISADORA ORTEGA**





# ABOUT

Dominican/Venezuelan actress Isadora Ortega is rising up in the entertainment industry as one to watch. Already making strides as a triple threat, Isadora has made waves as an award-winning actress, producer, and writer.

After falling deep in love with the art by watching telenovelas with her mom, Isadora knew at an early age that she wanted to take part in a career that was diverse in the art of expressionism. While living in New York, acting was at her fingertips and Isadora went on to study the art, including voice over, improv and body movement at the Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, as well as at Susan Batson Studios. She soon went on to appear in various Off-Broadway shows such as "Eating Out" and host TV shows such as "Cook up" On Tempo. After a successful run in New York building her brand as an Afro Latina artist, Isadora knew her next move would be pivotal to her career. Once relocating to Los Angeles, Isadora didn't waste time getting into the groove of things and quickly went on to produce and star in several projects, including web series, short films and shows such as "Laff Mob" on Tru TV, while growing her social media presence.

Now, Ortega can be best recognized for executive producing and starring in award-winning film, *Another Love Story*. After making its way through the festival circuit, the film has gone on to win multiple awards ahead of its official *July 2022* release date, including Best Director, Brandon Morson, and most recently selected as Best Feature Film at the 2022 Gold Movie Awards. Her acting has also garnered her recognition as Best Actress at both the 2021 New York Int Film Awards and Los Angeles Cinematography Awards. Ortega's accolades don't stop there as her recent holiday film, *Hope Street Holiday* continued to recognize Ortega's work obtaining both Best Narrative Feature and Best Actress awards at the Festigious International Film Festival.

Off screen, Isadora can best be recognized as an author, most recently publishing her first Graphic Novel called "The Curse of the flower"//"*La Maldicion De La Flor*" based on the legend of Anacaona. The novel follows leader of her tribe, Anacaona, as her people's lives are turned around by conquistadores, who too willingly took more than was offered. In defense to protect her people, Anacaona's rage quickly developed in a way no one saw coming. . Isadora's hit novel was met with praise and fans can soon see the short film come to life and make its rounds in the festival circuit in 2023.

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ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY MAGAZINE

ISSUE #73  
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# ISADORA ORTEGA

+ *Sydney Mikayla. Shae Nycole.*

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*#Rally4Reparations*





PHOTOS:  
@JAYR11/PHOTO



# ISADORA ORTEGA

## ANOTHER LOVE STORY

Words + Interview By Lucky Smith

*Isadora Ortega is an actress and writer who has been seen on "Laff Mob" on TruTV, "Cook Up" on Tempo and more. Speaking with us, we discussed mental health, toxic relationships, graphic novels and her role as Miriam Ramos in "Another Love Story".*

### ***Tell us about the film "Another Love Story" and your role as Miriam Ramos.***

*Another Love Story* is very dear to my heart. This movie is based on how my best friend/sister was killed. I knew domestic abuse was a big social problem, but I didn't realize how big it was until I started doing my own research. We don't really have laws in place to protect the victims of domestic abuse because the law doesn't want to get involved in husband and wife relationships or couples of any sexual orientation. I dream of building a foundation where we can start a petition to change the laws in place. To use the foundation to rehabilitate people that are survivors of domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse victims suffer from PTSD, similar to soldiers that fought in a war. Playing the role of Miriam Ramos was very challenging because when I started writing the outline for *Another Love Story*, it was my way of dealing with the loss of my loved one. Living the life of Miriam Ramos and feeling how much she loved Mark and how she desired to heal him from his demon was heavy to carry.

But overall, playing Miriam brought me closure and purpose because it opened the door to real conversations with different women and men about their stories. Just in my crew, we had four survivors of domestic abuse, and they told me their stories and prayed with me that we would be able to open someone's eye before it is too late.

### ***In what ways did you prepare for this role? Also, did you pull from any personal experiences?***

I did a lot of research online, and I spoke to a few survivors of domestic abuse. The more I spoke to the survivors, the more I understood Miriam.

### ***Describe your most memorable moment on set.***

The best moments are when the cameras are not rolling, when we are in makeup/hair, or lunch because these are the moments we get to know each other, from the cast to the crew. I love my crew and cast.

### ***"Toxic" is a very popular word, especially regarding relationships and masculinity/femininity. What is your take on that and how people operate today as a whole?***

As humans, we operate from a very selfish place; it is all about the individual's needs and wants. If we could get back to the essence of who we are as people, we could see so much positive

change in relationships. Women and men need each other, and we could have more abundance of all good things if we just get back to our essence.

### ***How do you think social media has helped/hurt human interaction thus far?***

We are so close and so far at the same time. We believe because someone is posting, they are doing well, and that's not always the case. I don't think social media is the issue but specifically, us as human beings.

### ***May was "Mental Health Awareness" month. How does mental health correlate with the film, and what steps should we all take to get the help we need?***

When we were writing *Another Love Story*, it was very important to add the factor of mental illness because it is real. A human being must have some kind of mental disorder to hurt and abuse the person they are supposed to love and protect. Check on your friends and family, and learn how to recognize the red flags. Counseling is so important. We should all do it because sometimes we don't even know why we behave the way we do.

### ***You are also an executive producer on the film. What all does that entail?***

Usually, an executive producer gives funds and lets the producer take them from there. I was executive producer, writer, producer, casting director, location manager, and post-production - I wouldn't change a thing. I love my journey; even though it is not the traditional journey for an actor, I still love it. I know how a film comes together from the first idea on paper to the last draft in the editing room.

### ***Is there anything you learned about yourself while working on this project that you weren't privy to prior?***

This project required so much physicality, from the intimacy to the abuse, and everything was very out of sequence. This project tested my acting instrument, and I learned so much about my own mind and my triggers as an actress.

### ***What is the "takeaway" from this film?***

That it can be me, or it can be you. Domestic abuse and mental illness don't discriminate by social status. This can happen to any of us, especially when feelings and sex are involved; sex is a powerful drug. Learn to identify the red flags because they can save your life or the life of a loved one.





**Let's talk about your background for a bit. How was your childhood, and where did you grow up?**

I was born in Caracas, Venezuela, to Dominican parents. I was raised by a single mother who was raised by a single mother who worked hard every day to give me the best education and best life that she could afford. My father was always in the picture, even if it was not physically. I grew up around strong women, from my mom to my grandmother. I always understood clearly what it meant to work with discipline, even when you don't feel like it.

**Was entertainment something you always wanted to get into?**

Acting is the freedom to express all of your personas that otherwise would be judged by society. There's no judgment in acting, and you get to use so many parts of yourself. Acting is healing because we can always bring parts of us into every role. I have been able to understand more about domestic abuse victims by playing one because understanding the needs and wants of Miriam helped me understand why so many people feel trapped. I fell in love with acting by watching Telenovelas with my mom. I loved how one person can transform themselves from the inside out and live the lives of so many.

**Break down your graphic novel, "The Curse of the Flower"// "La Maldicion De La Flor."**

*The Curse of the Flower*//*La Maldicion De La Flor* is based on the legend of Anacaona. The novel follows leader of her tribe, Anacaona, as her people's lives are turned around by conquistadores, who too willingly took more than was offered. To protect her people, Anacaona's rage quickly evolved in a way no one saw coming, developing into a night where everything was set into motion so she could visit our world...time is an interesting thing; sometimes, it heals you and sometimes allows your rage to grow. But Anacaona's legacy will not be silenced; it will only impact our world.

**Name three graphic novels other than your own that one should check out.**

*Black Sands*, *The Seven Kingdoms*, *Skin of the Sea (Of Mermaids and Oriya)*, and *Daughters Of Nri*.

**What do you enjoy doing when you're not creating?**

I love the ocean, driving to Malibu, watching the waves, and smelling the ocean. I also love good food and traveling.

**What doesn't being an Afro Latina mean to you?**

That my roots run deep, that my roots come from traditions, that my roots come from fighters and people that overcome. I am a representation of my Afro roots and my Latin traditions. The Afro roots are very present in Latin traditions and culture.

**What doesn't being an Afro Latina mean to you?**

That my roots run deep, that my roots come from traditions, that my roots come from fighters and people that overcome. I am a representation of my Afro roots and my Latin traditions. The Afro roots are very present in Latin traditions and culture.

**Is love as hard as people make it? Why or why not?**

Love is not hard, it just takes work. Love takes two people willing to both compromise for the sake of the relationship and the other. Loving is simply protecting the love; nurturing love is the challenging part.

**Tell us something about yourself that most don't know.**

I am an Afro-Latina who loves country music and is very passionate about storytelling.

**Lastly, if anyone wants to see the film or keep up with you, how do they go about it?**

Follow me on Instagram at @lablacklatina and be sure to watch *Another Love Story*, released 7/19.





THE OFFICIAL

BLACK MAGAZINE

# ISADORA ORTEGA DISCUSSION ABOUT ANOTHER LOVE STORY

Written by Christine Black

**Black:** Tell me about *Another Love Story*?

**Ortega:** *Another Love Story* is a domestic abuse film inspired by my best friend, who passed a few years ago. I co-wrote this with Brandon Morson, who is both my business and creative partner.

**Black:** What are some of the challenges you faced working on *Another Love Story*?

**Ortega:** *Another Love Story* took me on a very emotional journey. Most films are shot out of sequence, so one moment I am happy, the next I am crying, after that making love, and after that sad again. *Another Love Story* is a domestic abuse film, making it a very physical film. So it was like a roller coaster of emotions and sensations. At the end of every shoot day, I would need to play some good music to clean my energy.

**Black:** What are your best moments filming?

**Ortega:** When you see everything coming together on the first day of shooting. Every department is set up and ready to work. Actors come in prepared and ready to play.

**Black:** What are some challenges you experienced while doing the work that you do?

**Ortega:** Producing is difficult and very technical compared to acting. It was very difficult to remove the producing hat and go through make-up and hair to get ready to live the life of Mariam. I am very grateful to my team; they are very hands-on.

**Black:** Do you have any projects coming up?

**Ortega:** I just wrapped my first Christmas film, 'Hope Street Holiday,' which I executive produced, co-wrote and led.

I also published my first graphic novel, "The Curse of the Flower"/"La Maldicion De La Flor," in 2018, based on the legend





of Anacaona. I was so lucky to have a book I originally wanted to develop into a film get met with so much praise, and now I am on my way to doing just that. I am currently developing this novel into a short film, to be directed by Oscar-nominated director David Massi and expect it to make its rounds in the festival circuit shortly after its release.

**Black:** How are you changing things in the entertainment industry?

**Ortega:** By being the change that I want to see. I want to see more Afro-Latinos on the big and small screens. Sometimes when the conversation about diversity is being held, they are not speaking about Afro-Latinos. I consciously enforce that change, which is why I have four beautiful Afro-Latinas in my Christmas film, "Hope Street Holiday."

**"PRODUCING  
IS DIFFICULT,  
CHALLENGING, AND  
VERY TECHNICAL  
COMPARED  
TO ACTING."**





INTERVIEW BY AMBER

## ISADORA ORTEGA

The Haitian/Cuban actress Isadora Ortega is a rising star in the entertainment industry. Already making strides as a triple threat, Isadora has made waves as an award-winning actress, producer, and writer. In her early years, Isadora watched telenovelas with her mom and fell deeply in love with the art of expressionism.



**Hi Isadora, can you tell us about your new projects?**  
 Another Love Story. I play the role of a budding novelist Miriam Ramos, a woman fresh out of a toxic relationship who quickly finds herself in a dark place, desperately seeking to live a lavish life and to be romantically in love. Starting to believe that she is the problem, the hurdles of life quickly weigh on her until she meets and falls deeply in love with the man of her dreams - That is, until her newfound love reveals itself to be a tragic nightmare, not even her closest friends could see coming.

I published my first graphic novel, "The Curse of the Flower"/"La Maldicion De La Flor," based on the legend of Anacaona. The novel follows the leader of her tribe, Anacaona, as her people's lives are turned around by conquistadores, who too willingly took more than was offered. To protect her people, Anacaona's rage quickly evolved in a way no one saw coming, developing into a night where everything was set into motion so she could visit our world. The Curse of the flower is currently in the works to be developed into a short film, to be directed by Oscar nominated director David Massi and expected to make its rounds in the festival circuit soon to follow its release.

Lastly, my Christmas film Hope Street Holiday will be released on December 6th, 2022. This film is so beautiful and heartfelt, and I know it is going to touch many hearts.

**How do you feel you are changing things in the entertainment industry?**  
 I don't just speak on representation, I showcase how we can properly represent it in today's media in every single project I produce. For example, I am so proud of my upcoming holiday film, Hope Street Holiday, because we specifically cast five AfroLatinas, Jackie Nova, Adalgiza Chemo-unt, Rosemary Dominguez, Shan Moreno, and myself, to properly represent the background & heritage of the main character. That's how I make a difference by putting more Afro-Latinos on the screen.

**What are some challenges you experienced while doing the work that you do?**  
 The 'no's,' falling in love with roles and knowing you did a good job, but at the end of the day, the outcome is not what you expected. But I don't let these obstacles stop me from my craft because they provide me valuable learning moments and reasons to continue working towards what I love.

**What were some of the challenges you faced working on Another Love Story?**  
 Shooting out of sequence is very challenging, especially in a project like Another Love Story, because it is a very emotionally loaded film. Another Love Story is a roller coaster ride of emotions and physicality.



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**Tell me about Another Love Story. What inspired this film, and why did you feel it was so important to bring this project to life?**  
 Another Love Story is very dear to my heart. This movie is based on how my best friend/ sister was killed. I knew that domestic abuse was a big social problem. Still, I didn't realize how big it was until I started doing my research and learned how we don't have laws in place to protect the victims of domestic abuse because the law doesn't want to get involved in husband and wife relationships or couples of any sexual orientation. My dream is to build a foundation where we can start a partition to change the laws in place. To use the foundation to rehabilitate people that are survivors of domestic abuse. Domestic Abuse victims suffer from PTSD, as some a soldier that fought in a war. Playing the role of Miriam Ramos was very challenging because when I started writing the outline for 'Another Love Story' it was my way of dealing with the loss of my loved one. Living the life of Miriam Ramos and feeling how much she loves Mark and how she desires to heal him from his demon was heavy to carry. But overall, playing Miriam brought me closure and purpose because it has opened the door to having real conversations with different women and men about their stories. Just in my crew, we had four survivors of domestic abuse who shared their stories with me.

**Your film raised awareness of the mental health & domestic abuse space. What should be known more about when it comes to touching on these sensitive subjects?**  
 On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.  
 - 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner contact sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking with impacts such as injury, fearfulness, post-traumatic stress disorder, use of victim services, contraction of sexually transmitted diseases, etc.  
 - On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.  
 - The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500. Domestic abuse is a virus in our society, and we need to actually make changes to our laws to protect individuals.

**Outside of Another Love Story, can you share any projects coming up?**  
 My next film, Hope Street Holiday, will be available December 6th, and I can't wait to share more about it these next few months!

**Do you think social media plays a big role in your career? How important is social media to you right now?**  
 I believe social media is a great way to share news and interact with people; I have used my platform to bring awareness to topics that matter to me.



# ISADORA ORTEGA

## TRIPLE THREAT

Actress / Writer / Producer: Isadora Ortega  
Publicist: Heliope Creative @heliopecreative  
Photographer: Jason Rivera @jriverphoto  
Makeup Artist: Danilo Cifuentes @makeupdaniloce  
Hair Stylist: Andree Merrivether Jr @andree  
Wardrobe Stylist: Ilaria De Plano @ilaria\_de\_plano



**Can you introduce yourself to our audience?**

My name is Isadora Ortega. I am an Afro-Latina actress, writer, producer and author raised New York by a single mother that was raised by a single mother.

**What attracted you to begin a career in the entertainment industry? What has the process been like from initially being an actress to eventually putting on more hats as a writer and producer?**

I grew up watching telenovelas with my mom and I fell in love with acting and seeing how a person was able to transform themselves into different people.

**Which role that you have portrayed have you enjoyed the most?**

It's really hard to say which one is my favorite because honestly, with the roles that I play it makes it difficult to choose.

**What is the first thing you do to research and approach a role?**

I like to know their beliefs, social and economic status, where they grew up, education, and family dynamic.

**What message do you want your work to give fans?**

I want them to feel that they are seeing.

**What, according to you, is the best part of your work?**

I get to Mimic real life without any actual consequences for the things that I do or say.

**Tell us about the toughest part of your work? And why do you think it is tough for you?**

When I am wearing multiple hats it is a little bit challenging just because I have to work twice as hard to continue to be truthful to the role that I am playing.

**Every industry, including the entertainment industry, is full of competition; what do you do to stand out amidst competition?**

The only thing that I can really do is continue to work on myself. I am in acting class when I am not on set. I take vocal classes and fight choreography for film and tv.

**The entertainment industry is said to be full of stress and pressure; what do you do to tackle the pressure that comes with your work?**

I love what I do and I want to do it for the rest of my life. I enjoy the pressure of doing what I love to do.

**What's challenging about bringing a script to life?**

Well bringing them to life is not the challenge getting them made is.

**Where do you see your career in five years from now?**

Leading my own marvel franchise.

**What techniques do you use to create a believable character?**

Sensor memory, substitution, endowments and others.



Actress / Writer / Producer: Isadora Ortega  
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Photographer: Jason Rivera @jriverphoto  
Makeup Artist: Danilo Cifuentes @makeupdaniloce  
Hair Stylist: Andree Merrivether Jr @andree  
Wardrobe Stylist: Ilaria De Plano @ilaria\_de\_plano

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**VENTS**  
M A G A Z I N E



**Isadora  
Ortega**



**We're happy to be speaking today with talented actress, writer, and producer Isadora Ortega; greetings and salutations, Isadora! Before we dive into the deep end, how has your 2022 been treating you thus far?**

2022 came with many lessons, and I appreciate every one of them. One of my dreams was to lead a Christmas film, and that dream is a reality now. We wrapped production on our Christmas film 'Hope Street Holiday' in May and are now in post-production. I am the executive producer, co-writer with Brandon Morson, and lead. I am very excited to share this film with everyone soon.

**Congratulations on the upcoming July 19 VOD premiere of your award-winning feature film, Another Love Story! For those not in the know, could you tell us a little about the story of Another Love Story and your character therein, Miriam Ramos?**

This is a passion project that is very dear to my heart. This movie is based on how my best friend/sister was killed. I knew that domestic abuse was a big social problem, but I didn't realize how big it was until I started doing my own research. We don't really have laws in place to protect the victims of domestic abuse because the law doesn't want to get involved with a husband and wife's relationship or couples of any sexual orientation. Playing the role of Miriam Ramos was very challenging because when I started writing the outline for 'Another Love story,' it was my way of dealing with the loss of my loved one. Living the life of Miriam Ramos and feeling how much she loved Mark and how she desired to heal him from his demon was heavy to carry. But overall, playing Miriam brought me closure and purpose because it opened the door to real conversations with different women and men about their stories. Just in my crew, we had four survivors of domestic abuse, and they told me their stories and prayed with me that we would be able to open someone's eye before it's too late.

**You not only star in Another Love Story, but you also serve as a co-writer alongside director Brandon Morson. To add to that impressive list, you also serve as an executive producer on the film. What specific challenges did you face as an actress, writer, and exec-producer?**

Producing is very technical, and acting is art. Anyone that has to wear these two hats knows how challenging it is. It's like when you are the ship's captain, and everyone is looking at you for answers. I am so grateful to my team, my director and business partner, Brandon Morson, plus my AD Doreen Pastures. These two are problem solvers.

**You work alongside such a talented ensemble in Another Love Story, including the likes of Kenneth Wayne, Dorcas Tejeda, Jennifer Marie, and Danny De Lloyd, among many others. What was it like playing your craft with these amazing actors?**

It was my first time working with Kenneth; he was just amazing. His level of dedication and professionalism is unmatched. We had so many difficult scenes, and he always made me feel safe. Kenneth is one of the most talented and sweet people I have ever met, and his execution of the role as Mark is impeccable. Danny De Lloyd was just so kind and selfless. Now, how blessed I am that I get to play with my friends Dorcas Tejeda as my Dominican sister, and Jennifer Marie as my best friend. We have great chemistry, and it shows on screen. These two women are very powerful actresses that I get to call friends.

**Brandon Morson is the director of Another Love Story. What was your collaboration like with Brandon as an actress and as a fellow writer? Is he what some actors might call "an actor's director"?**

Brandon is an actors director and a producers director. He has a clear understanding of what's needed on the technical side as much as on the artistic side too.

**How would you say you are similar to your character**

**of Miriam Ramos? How are you different?**

We are both hopeless romantics, and we are both nurturing people. The difference between us is her need to fix someone to the point of allowing someone to destroy her. Miriam battles with inner issues that I haven't, and that's why it is so difficult for a person to leave an abusive relationship. Narcissistic people will manipulate someone's brain to the point that you will question your own identity, values, and morals.

**What do you hope viewers walk away feeling after watching Another Love Story?**

This can happen to any of us, especially when feelings and sex are involved; sex is a powerful drug. I hope people will start questioning those red flags and keep an eye on their loved ones without judgment.

**Have you been surprised by how well-received Another Love Story has been from early audiences and critics?**

Domestic abuse is such a big social issue. After the first screening, Brandon and I got so many DMs from people who either experienced domestic abuse or are connected to someone that experienced domestic abuse.

**Your first credited onscreen performance came in the form of 2006's The Story of Juan Bago. Any special memories of that freshman production?**

I was nurse Diaz, and I was just happy to be there. A full Dominican cast and it was filmed in Washington heights. So fun times!

**What fascinates you the most about acting?**

Acting is the freedom to express all of your personas that otherwise would be judged by society. There's no judgment in acting, and you get to use so many parts of yourself. Acting is so healing to me because we can always bring parts of us into every role. I have been able to understand more about domestic abuse victims by playing one because understanding the needs and wants of Miriam helped me understand why so many people feel trapped. I fell in love with acting by watching Telenovelas with my mom. I loved how one person can transform themselves from the inside out and live the lives of so many.

**Another Love Story marks your second produced writing credit, the first coming in the 2018 short film Road to Closure. Is writing something that you plan on doing more of in the future?**

I love flushing ideas out and working the arc of the story. If you ask Brandon, he will tell you I am the queen of outlines. I love outlining stories and developing characters. So yes, I will continue writing.

**You've also got four producer credits to your name. Along the lines of the writing, can we look forward to seeing you continue producing in the future?**

Producing is challenging, but yes, I would probably have my producer hat on in many other projects.

**Acting-wise, who inspires you?**

Chadwick Boseman, he left all on the table. He was talented and had an impeccable work ethic.

**What's coming up after Another Love Story? Can you drop fans a hint or two?**

My upcoming Christmas film, 'Hope Street Holiday,' which shares an amazing story with four Afrolatina leads - Written by Brandon Morson, co-written by me + Directed by Brandon Morson, executive produced by me.

I play the role of Gallia Garcia, aka Lia, and am joined by an incredible cast, including Rodney Rikal as our leading man, playing the role of Terrence, Ron G playing the role of Johnny, Guy Torry as Walter, Sere as Sutherly, and my three aunties are played by Jackie Nova, Adargiza de Los Santos, and Rosemary Dominguez.



# GLADYS

Photography | JCL Imagery



THE  
NEXT  
**BIG**  
THING

## Isadora Ortega

**Known For:** 'Another Love Story' a Domestic abuse film she is the Executive Producer, co-writer, and lead.

**Social Media Info:** @lablacklatina

## Q&A

### Tell us about your career.

I am set to release my award-winning film, *Another Love Story*, which I have been fortunate enough to both have executive produced and star in. I play budding novelist Miriam Ramos, a woman fresh out of a toxic relationship who quickly finds herself in a dark place, desperately seeking to live a lavish life and to be romantically in love.

After making its way through the festival circuit, the film has gone on to win multiple awards, including Best Director, Brandon Morson, and Best Actress, myself, at the 2021 New York Int Film Awards and most recently selected as Best Feature Film at the 2022 Gold Movie Awards.

### What makes you stand out from others in your field?

My work ethic. I don't sleep until the work is done. "Dreams do not come true just because you dream them. It's hard work that happen. It's hard work that creates change." -Shonda Rhimes

### What's Next For You?

I just wrapped my first Christmas film 'Hope Street Holiday' which I executive produced, co-wrote, and was the lead in. Off-screen, I most recently published my first graphic novel, "The Curse of the Flower"/"La Maldicion De La Flor," based on the legend of Anacaona. It was so great to see my first novel was met with praise by fans and I'm currently working towards developing it into a short film, to be directed by Oscar-nominated director David Massi. We have high hopes to see it make its rounds in the festival circuit soon to follow its release.



## Getting to Know Isadora Ortega

Isadora Ortega on the set of Hope Street Holiday

**SFND Magazine: First and foremost, Isadora, we want to thank you so much for interviewing with So FN Dope Magazine. We are so glad to have you. How are you?**

Isadora Ortega: Thank you so much for having me. I am doing amazing, enjoying traveling and the Christmas season with my family.

**SFND Magazine: Tell us a little about yourself ... Where are you from, and how did you get your start in the industry?**

Isadora Ortega: I am Dominican and Venezuelan, raised in New York City. My first taste of this industry was my participation at the IMTA, which is an International modeling and acting competition.

**SFND Magazine: At what point did you feel that this was something you wanted to pursue professionally? Was there a defining moment or has this always been your dream?**

Isadora Ortega: I used to watch telenovelas with my mom, and that's when I fell in love with acting. While watching those telenovelas, I realized that I wanted to pursue an acting career, so my mom put me in modeling and acting school.

**SFND Magazine: All too often, we see people who wake up one day and suddenly decide that they want to be an actor or a singer or entertainer. For some odd reason, people think that it is easy or that it happens overnight. That is simply not the case. We love the fact that you've spent time developing your craft and being educated in the arts. What were some of your most valuable lessons learned while you attended Conservatory for Dramatic Arts and Susan Batson Studios and how much of an impact has it had on your career?**

Isadora Ortega: I learned at The Conservatory to always have your inner monologue and to always treat a prop gun like a real gun. At Susan Batson studio, I learned to access my emotional instrument.



**SFND Magazine: In your career, you've done some Off-Broadway shows, TV shows, and films. We are curious. As a student of the arts, which do you prefer, the Stage, television, or the Silver Screen?**

Isadora Ortega: Television and the silver screen are my favorites because your work last forever. I honestly would love to do more stage in the future.

**SFND Magazine: You are a woman of many talents. You're also a published author as well. You've written graphic novel called "The Curse of the flower"//" La Maldicion De La Flor" based on the legend of Anacaona. Tell us a little about your book and where we can go to purchase and support it. Also, I must ask, with you being an actor, writer and producer, is there any chance you'll be turning your book into a screenplay for a movie somewhere down the line?**

Isadora Ortega: Thank you so much for your support. The Curse of the Flower is available on Barnes and Noble and Amazon. I am currently in post-production of its adaption into a short film directed by Oscar-nominated director David Massey that is expected to make its rounds in the festival circuit soon to follow its release.

**SFND Magazine: Let's switch gears a bit! Christmas is around the corner so let's talk about your most recent holiday film, Hope Street Holiday. Tell us a little about the film and what we can expect to see in this movie?**

Isadora Ortega: Galia García is a successful Afro-Latina attorney in Los Angeles who returns to her small hometown after getting dumped days before Christmas. She realized her life has been lacking meaningful relationships since losing her mother and best friend. With the help of a 5-year-old orphan, her three crazy Aunties, and this small town's magic, Lia heals from her past trauma. Ultimately, she'll rediscover her self-worth, and the true meaning of family and fall in love all over again with an old friend. Written by: Brandon Morson & Isadora Ortega.

**SFND Magazine: We watched the trailer, and the movie seems dope. Can't wait to check it out. What do you think will set this movie apart from other Christmas or Holiday themed movies out there?**

Isadora Ortega: This is the first time that 5 Afro-Latinas are leading a Christmas movie. Hope Street Holiday has the culture and flavor of the Garcia's beautiful Dominican family. This family is bold in their communication and how they love one another. Hope Street also has drama, romance and comedy, a perfect balance for the entire family.

**SFND Magazine: I think it is very important to mention that not only are you starring in this movie, but you wrote this movie as well alongside Brandon Morson who also directed the film. What inspired you all to write this movie together, and what is it like to create a project of this magnitude and to watch it blossom from conception to fruition?**

Isadora Ortega: We believe in each other, and we believe in our visions. Inspiration is found everywhere, and we look to include our own personal lives and our circles of friends.

**SFND Magazine: You all have made other films together as well and even won awards for one of your recent works. Does this mean we can expect to see more films written, produced and directed by you all in the future?**

Isadora Ortega: Oh yes, all I can say for now is that we have a large portfolio of film treatments and finalized scripts.



**SFND Magazine: When will Hope Street Holiday be released and where can we expect to see the film.**

Isadora Ortega: HOPE STREET HOLIDAY was released on December 6 and is now available on:  
AT&T U-Verse

DirecTV

Dish Network and Sling TV

Vubiquity (30% of cable market – Verizon Fios)

Swank (colleges, hospitals)

Amazon

iTunes <https://itunes.apple.com/us/movie/hope-street-holiday/id1657290020>

Apple TV <https://tv.apple.com/us/movie/hope-street-holiday/umc.cmc.terp2mdh22z3h9fr5sms46sm>

Vudu <https://www.vudu.com/content/movies/details/Hope-Street-Holiday/2119761>

Xbox <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/p/hope-street-holiday/8d6kgwz04s03?activetab=pivot%3aoverviewtab>

Google Play

[https://play.google.com/store/movies/details/Hope-Street-Holiday?id=m7-IgQeCS9g.P&hl=en\\_US&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/movies/details/Hope-Street-Holiday?id=m7-IgQeCS9g.P&hl=en_US&gl=US)

YouTube Movies <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wg7pY-qvRk>



**SFND Magazine: Where can our readers find more information about the film online and where can they find you on social media?**

Isadora Ortega: @lablacklatina @hopestreetholiday

**SFND Magazine: Last question. So in all of our interviews, we like to ask this question to all our interviewees. Before you go could you name for us one other person (actor, artist, someone who inspires you etc...) that you think is So FN Dope and tell us why?**

Isadora Ortega: I am inspired by my mother, grandmother, Shando Rhimes, Issa Rae, Maya Angelou, Anacaona and many other women that have walked in their purpose, and because of them, I can walk in mine.

**SFND Magazine: Once again, we would like to say thank you Isadora, for interviewing with us. Clearly, you are an inspiration. Keep up the amazing work! We wish you much more continued success.**

<https://www.sofndopemagazine.com/post/getting-to-know-isadora-ortega>





## Isadora Ortega crea sus propios proyectos para darle voz a los afrolatinos

*Con el fin de dar a conocer la cultura afrolatina y verse representada, Isadora Ortega ha decidido llevar al cine y la televisión sus propias historias.*



De origen dominicano-venezolano y criada en Nueva York, Estados Unidos, **Isadora Ortega** descubrió que ser [afrolatina](#) la limitaba para acceder a los proyectos que le interesaban. Por ello, decidió crear propuestas que dignificaran sus raíces. "Las oportunidades más grandes que he tenido, hasta ahora, las he escrito y producido yo", mencionó a *People en Español*.

"Cuando comencé a actuar traté mucho como latina; salía mucho por papeles de latina y no me dieron muchas oportunidades, y era porque no entendían el concepto de una latina morena. Normalmente, piensan más en las latinas que son más europeas. No entienden que nosotros como latinos somos una combinación de muchas cosas, muchas culturas, muchas razas. Siempre querían que fuera por el papel de estadounidense", agregó. "Para mí es muy importante que entiendan que tengo afro, mi cultura es latina, tengo parte de dos mundos. El mundo está diseñado de tantas personas que tienen tantos colores y sabores que ¿por qué no enseñar eso en la televisión y cine?".

Ahora, además de actriz, se ha convertido en escritora y productora, y ante "la falta de oportunidades que he tenido" decidió iniciar una lucha contra los estereotipos. "Recibí tantos no. Creo en la necesidad de expresarse. Y para mí la actuación es algo que utilizo para expresar mis emociones", advirtió. "Entonces, decidí comenzar a escribir para poder llevar a la televisión y el cine papeles en los que me quiero ver; historias que son importantes para la sociedad".





Así, su interés por dignificar sus raíces la hizo crear, producir y estelarizar la película *Hope Street Holiday*, cuya historia gira en torno de una abogada de nombre Galia García que regresa al pueblo estadounidense donde nació para reencontrarse "con el pasado, su familia, cultura, raíces, con las personas que en realidad significan algo importante para ella" y lograr recuperar su pasión por la vida.

"Esta es la primera vez que hay una familia afrolatina que lidera una película de Navidad", explicó. "Se han visto muchas historias de Navidad, pero nunca desde el punto de vista de una familia afrolatina, que es dominicana. Eso no se ha visto en la televisión anteriormente, el sabor y sazón de lo que es la cultura".

## "Mientras tengamos muy clara la misión vamos a poder hacer un cambio",



El filme *Hope Street Holiday* con Isadora Ortega ya está disponible en plataformas como en Amazonprime, iTunes, AppleTV, Googleplay, Hoopla, DirecTV, Sling, AT&T U-Verse, Vudu y YouTube. "Mientras tengamos muy clara la misión vamos a poder hacer un cambio", concluyó.

<https://peopleenespanol.com/celebridades/isadora-ortega-busca-dar-voz-a-los-afrolatinos/>





*Jejune Magazine*

## Isadora Ortega - Is Fighting Against Domestic Violence

We would like to introduce Isadora Ortega a multi-skilled actress, writer, and producer based in Los Angeles. Ortega is truly one to watch, from appearing in the Off-Broadway production "Eating Out" to writing the recently released graphic novel "The Curse of the Flower," and now executive producing and starring in "Another Love Story". "Another Love Story" is an award-winning film that follows an abusive relationship. Its release is well timed as October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Continue reading to find out more about Ortega's career, future projects, and how we can be more aware of what goes on behind closed doors.

**Where are you based?**

*I am based in Los Angeles.*

**You are an actress, a writer, and a producer. Do you prefer one over the other?**

*Yes, acting is my first passion.*

**What sparked your interest in the entertainment industry?**

*I grew up watching telenovelas with my mom, and I loved how the same person can become different*



people.

**You appeared in Off-Broadway productions such as "Eating Out." Do you prefer this type of live Acting or on-screen Acting?**

*They don't really compare. I haven't done stage in a very long time, and do hope to have the opportunity to do it again in the near future.*

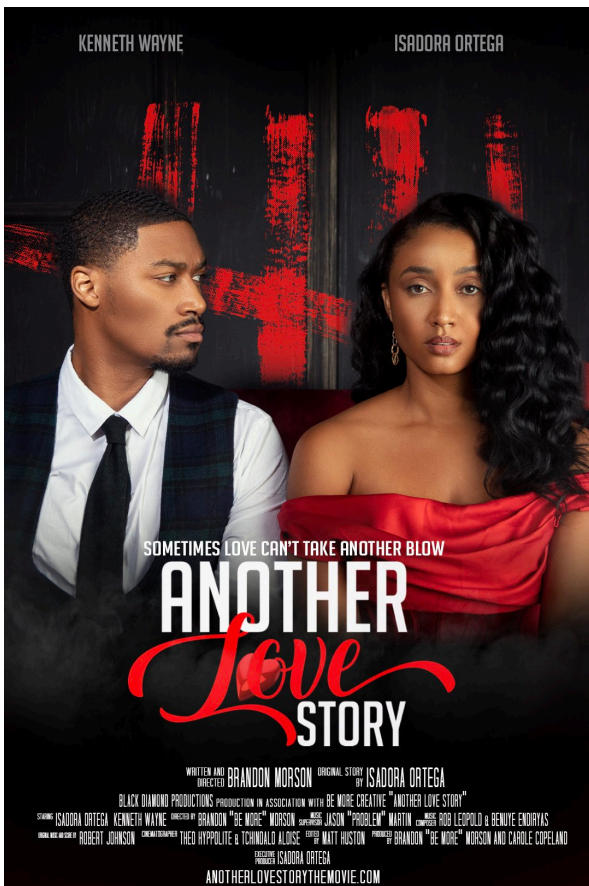
**You've also appeared in and produced several projects, including web series, short films, and shows. Do you have a favorite acting or producing project?**

*To be completely honest, producing is very challenging. Producing is a numbers game and very technical. All my projects are my babies, so I can't pick.*

**You truly are a triple threat; you are also an author who has just released your first graphic novel, "The Curse of the Flower," based on the legend of Anacaona. Could you tell us a little bit more about this book and why you wrote it?**

*"The Curse of the Flower"// "La Maldicion De La Flor" is based on the legend of Anacaona. The novel follows the leader of her tribe, Anacaona, as her people's lives are turned around by conquistadores, who too willingly took more than was offered. To protect her people, Anacaona's rage quickly evolved in a way no one saw coming, developing into a night where everything was set into motion so she could visit our world... time is an interesting thing; sometimes, it heals you and sometimes allows your rage to grow. But Anacaona's legacy will not be silenced, only impact our world. It was so great to see my novel praised by fans, and happy to share we are currently in pre-production on the short film, to be directed by Oscar-nominated director David Massi and expected to make its rounds in the festival circuit soon to follow its release.*

*I played Anacaona in Elementary school, and I fell in love with her story. I feel this story should be told on a bigger scale, and I believe that her story belongs on the big screen.*



**Do you intend to publish any more books in the future?**

*Yes, the second book of The Curse of the Flower - stay tuned!*

**Let's talk about your new film, "Another Love Story," which you executive produced and starred in. Can you tell us about the film and the character you play?**

*Another love story is very dear to my heart. This movie is based on how my best friend/ sister was killed. I knew domestic abuse was a big social problem but didn't realize how big it was until I started doing my own research and learned how we don't really have laws to protect domestic abuse victims. Unfortunately, the law doesn't want to get involved in husband and wife relationships, or couples of any sexual orientation. I dream of building a foundation where we can start a partition to change the laws in place. To use the foundation to rehabilitate people that are survivors of domestic abuse. Domestic Abuse victims suffer from PTSD as some a soldier that fought in a war. Playing the role of Miriam Ramos was very challenging*



*because when I started writing the outline for 'Another Love story,' it was my way of dealing with the loss of my loved one. Living the life of Miriam Ramos and feeling how much she loves Mark and how she desired to heal him from his demon was heavy to carry. But overall, playing Miriam brought me closure and purpose because it opened the door to having a real conversation with different women and men about their stories. Just in my crew, we had four survivors of domestic abuse who willingly opened up and shared their stories.*

**This film has also won multiple awards. You were named Best Actress at the 2021 New York International Film Awards and Best Feature Film at the 2022 Gold Movie Awards. Congrats on these awards! What has been your reaction to this? What do you feel it was about this film that has resonated so much with others?**

*Thank you! It was incredible to see the feedback, and it was astonishing to hear how this movie resonated with so many who shared a similar experience to Mariam's.*

**During the pandemic across the world, we saw a rise in domestic violence. What would be your advice for someone in a bad situation? Or advice for a friend of someone in a bad situation who wants to help?**

*It is not your fault, and I encourage you to talk to someone because most of the time, in cases of domestic abuse, someone will lose their life.*

**How did you stay positive during COVID?**

*Praying, meditating, and affirming myself.*



**Women are struggling across the globe with how they are treated. What are your thoughts on the protests going on in Iran?**

*Honestly, I don't know anymore. I don't understand the obsession with men controlling woman's life. I don't understand why they are so afraid of our voices.*

**What is your motto in life?**

*If it is scary, do it anyway, because we have the key to our future and maybe someone else's future.*

**To know more about Isadora Ortega please follow her instagram below:**

Instagram [@lablacklatina](https://www.instagram.com/lablacklatina) [@Anotherlovestory](https://www.instagram.com/Anotherlovestory)  
[@Hopestreetholiday](https://www.instagram.com/Hopestreetholiday)



# NALUDA



## Interview with “Another Love Story” actress and producer Isadora Ortega

Check out our interview with Dominican/Venezuelan actress, writer, and producer Isadora Ortega who can be seen not only as executive producer but also starring in award-winning film drama *Another Love Story*.

Isadora plays budding novelist Miriam Ramos, a woman fresh out of a toxic relationship, who quickly finds herself in a dark place, desperately seeking to live a lavish life and to be romantically in love. Starting to believe that she is the problem, the hurdles of life quickly weigh on her until she meets and falls deeply in love with the man of her dreams – That is, until her newfound love reveals itself to be a tragic nightmare not even her closest friends could see coming.

**Follow Isadora @**[lablacklatina](https://www.instagram.com/lablacklatina)

**Hi Isadora, please tell us a little about you?**

I am an Afro-Latina actress, writer, and producer.

**Describe yourself in 3 words?**

Loyal, persistent, and passionate.

**How did you get started into acting?**

I fell in love with acting by watching Telenovelas with my mom. I loved how one person can transform themselves from the inside out and live the lives of so many.

**How has this changed your life?**

It is actually a little interesting because acting has helped me understand myself. We all have needs, wants, desires, and pain. It’s allowed me to psychoanalyze my behavior and dive into why I think the way I do and how my life experiences have shaped me.





### **What is the best and worst part of being an actress?**

Acting is the freedom to express all of your personas that otherwise would be judged by society. There's no judgment in acting, and you get to use so many parts of yourself. Acting is healing because we can always bring parts of us into every role. I have been able to understand more about domestic abuse victims by playing one because understanding the needs and wants of Miriam helped me understand why so many people feel trapped. The worst parts are the No's. Falling in love with a role and knowing that you can do it justice and getting that "no."

### **How do you prepare for a role?**

A lot of researcher. Low-key, actors are detectives and read the scripts multiple times. Learning what we think of ourselves and what the other characters think of us. Knowing our pain, needs, desires, goals, education, secrets, and so many other things. The short answer is I prepare from the inside out.

### **Tell us about your work in award-winning film drama "Another Love Story?"**

Another Love Story is the domestic abuse film that I produced last year, and it releases this July 19, 2022. This is a passion project that is very dear to my heart. This movie is based on how my best friend/ sister was killed. I knew that domestic abuse was a big social problem, but I didn't realize how big it was until I started doing my own research. We don't really have laws to protect domestic abuse victims because the law doesn't want to get involved in relationships.

### **What other projects you have been part of?**

I am the executive producer of "Hope Street Holiday," co-written with Brandon Morson, and I play the role of Galia Garcia aka Lia Garcia. Lia loses her way when her mom and best friend pass. She's living the life that she thought she always wanted, but now it feels empty and meaningless. The holidays are the best time for her to return home, and she finds herself and her passion around family while finding the real meaning of life and love. We have a beautiful cast, who are all very talented. Three beautiful and talented Afro-Latina actresses play my aunties. I felt at home; so many people will be able to relate to the characters in this film.

### **What kind of roles do you like or would like to play and why?**

I like playing complex characters. I don't like the good or just bad. I like characters with layers. Characters conflicted with what they want to do and what they have to do.

### **What is the most rewarding part of your work?**

Doing the work is very rewarding. Everything else is extra.



**What's your advice for the newer actors?**

Class, class, and class.

**What would say are the greatest lessons you have learned so far in this business?**

Learn all the sides of this business because it's the business of acting and always hire a lawyer.

**How would your best friends describe you?**

They will tell you that I love hard.

**If you are a book, what would be the title of the book and why?**

Come Agua Para Chocolate

**What advice would you give to your younger self and why?**

What is your power and always be you

**What's next for Isadora Ortega in 2022**

I published my first graphic novel, "The Curse of the Flower"/"La Maldicion De La Flor," based on the legend of Anacaona. The novel follows the leader of her tribe, Anacaona, as her people's lives are turned around by conquistadores, who too willingly took more than was offered. To protect her people, Anacaona's rage quickly evolved in a way no one saw coming, developing into a night where everything was set into motion so she could visit our world...time is an interesting thing; sometimes it heals you and sometimes allows your rage to grow. But Anacaona's legacy will not be silenced, only impact our world. It was so great to see my novel praised by fans, and I'm happy to say I am currently working on developing it into a short film – to be directed by Oscar-nominated director David Massi and I will play Anacaona and Ana.



<https://www.naludamagazine.com/interview-with-another-love-story-actress-and-producer-isadora-ortega/>



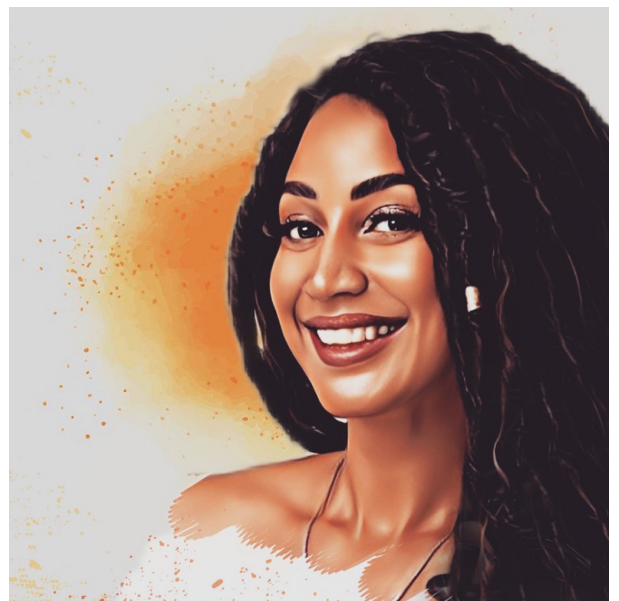


## Exclusive Interview with Actress, Writer, and Producer Isadora Ortega

Dominican/Venezuelan actress Isadora Ortega is rising up in the entertainment industry as one to watch. Already making strides as a triple threat, Isadora has made waves as an award winning actress, producer and writer.

After falling deep in love with the art by watching telenovelas with her mom, Isadora knew at an early age that she wanted to take part in a career that was diverse in the art of expressionism. While living in New York, acting was at her fingertips and Isadora went on to study the art, including voice over, improv and body movement at the Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, as well as at Susan Batson Studios. She soon went on to appear in various Off-Broadway shows such as “Eating Out” and host TV shows such as “Cook up” On Tempo. After a successful run in New York building her brand as an Afro Latina artist, Isadora knew her next move would be pivotal to her career. Once relocating to Los Angeles, Isadora didn’t waste time getting into the groove of things and quickly went on to produce and star in several projects, including web series, short films and shows such as “Laff Mob” on Tru TV, while growing her social media presence.

Most recently, she executive produced and starred in award winning film, *Another Love Story*. Isadora plays budding novelist Miriam Ramos, a women fresh out of a toxic relationship, who quickly finds herself in a dark place, desperately seeking to live a lavish life and to be romantically in love. Starting to believe that she is the problem, the hurdles





of life quickly weigh on her until she meets and falls deeply in love with the man of her dreams – That is, until her new found love reveals itself to be a tragic nightmare not even her closest friends could see coming. After making its way through the festival circuit, the film has gone on to win multiple awards ahead of its official **July 19<sup>th</sup> release**, including **Best Director**, Brandon Morson, and **Best Actress**, Isadora Ortega, at the **2021 New York Int Film Awards** and most recently selected as **Best Feature Film** at the **2022 Gold Movie Awards**.

Off screen, Isadora can best be recognized as an author, most recently publishing her first Graphic Novel called “The Curse of the flower”/”La Maldicion De La Flor” based on the legend of Anacaona. The novel follows leader of her tribe, Anacaona, as her people’s lives are turned around by conquistadores, who too willingly took more than was offered. In defense to protect her people, Anacaona’s rage quickly developed in a way no one saw coming – a night where everything was set into motion so she could visit our world...time is an interesting thing, sometimes it heals you and sometimes allows your rage to grow. But Anacaona’s legacy will not be silenced, only impact our world. Isadora’s hit novel was met with praise and fans can soon see the short film come to life and make its rounds in the festival circuit in 2023.



*Isadora, how are you, and welcome to OLC! So tell me, how did your passion for film come about?*

Hola, thank you so much for having me. Hope Street Holiday is a script that Brando Morson wrote, and I come on as the second writer on it. After reading this amazing story about Galia Garcia and her Aunties, we spoke about telling the story from an Afro-Latina family perspective. So we made some changes to the characters, and we told the story of this beautiful Latina family.

*So how did you end up on this career path, and do you remember the first project/role you ever auditioned for?*

I grew up watching telenovelas with my mom, and I fell in love with acting. One of my first roles was an off-off-Broadway play, and I loved it. I didn’t get paid, but I still loved it, and that’s how you know the love is real.

*You also write and produce; why did you want to delve into those aspects of film also?*

Writing allows me to tell stories that bring awareness to social issues and bring more diversity to the screen. As an independent filmmaker, we don’t have huge budgets, so we have to wear many hats.

***What has been the most challenging part of your career?***

Let me put it this way; this industry has taught me to be unapologetically me.

*What change would you like to see in the industry going forward?*

I would if it could mimic reality with diversity, like really duplicate all the shades of colors and cultural backgrounds that the world has.

***You have a brand new film called ‘Hope Street Holiday’, can you tell us a little bit about the film and who you play?***

Galia García is a successful Afro-Latina attorney in Los Angeles who returns to her small hometown after getting dumped days before Christmas. She realized her life has lacked meaningful relationships since losing her mother and best friend. With the help of a 5-year-old orphan, her three crazy Aunties, and this small town’s magic, Lia heals from her past trauma. Ultimately, she’ll rediscover her self-worth, and the true meaning of family and fall in love all over again with an old friend.



Written by: Brandon Morson & Isadora Ortega

HOPE STREET HOLIDAY is now available on:

AT&T U-Verse

DirecTV

Dish Network and Sling TV

Vubiquity (30% of cable market – Verizon Fios)

Hoopla – libraries – still processing, will send link when it is live

Swank (colleges, hospitals)

Amazon

iTunes <https://itunes.apple.com/us/movie/hope-street-holiday/id1657290020>

Apple TV <https://tv.apple.com/us/movie/hope-street-holiday/umc.cmc.terp2mdh22z3h9fr5sms46sm>

Vudu <https://www.vudu.com/content/movies/details/Hope-Street-Holiday/2119761>

Xbox <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/p/hope-street-holiday/8d6kgwz04s03?activetab=pivot%3aoverviewtab>

Google

Play [https://play.google.com/store/movies/details/Hope\\_Street\\_Holiday?id=m7\\_IgQeCS9g.P&hl=en\\_US&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/movies/details/Hope_Street_Holiday?id=m7_IgQeCS9g.P&hl=en_US&gl=US)

YouTube Movies <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wg7pY-qvRk>

***What drew you to this project?***

It's about family and second chances. I think it is so important to be around our loved ones when we feel lost, and that's what Lia did.

***Diversity representation in film and TV is something you're quite passionate about, and you talk a little bit about how that can affect today's youth?***

We watch so much Television that it is only fair that we see people that look like us and sound like us taking space in the world, from lawyers, doctors, superheroes and everything in between.

***What's the best advice you've ever received, and what advice can you give to up-and-coming actors who want to get their big break in the entertainment industry?***

Be unapologetically you and audition to book the room, not the job.

***Do you have any more projects coming up that you can tell us about?***

I am currently in post-production of Golden Flower, a short film directed by Oscar-nominated director David Massey based on my graphic novel 'The Curse of the Flower', available on Barnes and Noble and Amazon; expected to make its rounds in the festival circuit soon to follow its release.

***What are your plans for Christmas and New Years Eve?***

Christmas will be at home with friends and family. Dancing, watching tv and eating good food. New Year, we will be in the mountains in a cabin with friends and family.

<https://outloudculture.com/2022/12/29/exclusive-interview-with-actress-writer-and-producer-isadora-ortega/>



## Rising Actress Isadora Ortega Stars in “Another Love Story”

**( ENSPIRE She Did That ) Ortega Stared and Produced Her Film “Another Love Story” That Released Earlier This Year**

Isadora is a Dominican and Venezuelan triple treat as an award-winning actress, producer, and writer. After falling in love with the art of film from growing up watching Telenovelas with her mom, she knew she wanted to pursue a career in the arts. Ortega studied voice-over, improv, and body movement at the Conservatory for Dramatic Arts and at Susan Batson Studios in New York. She has appeared in various off-broadway shows, such as “Eating Out” and has hosted TV shows such as “Cook Up” on Tempo.



Ortega is currently the executive producer and the star of the award-winning film, Another Love Story. In the film, Ortega plays a budding novelist, Miriam Ramos, a woman who just got out of a toxic relationship and is in a dark place. Believing her romantic problems are her fault takes a toll on her until she finds new love. That is until she realizes she is caught in another nightmare. The film has won multiple awards after its run in the festival circuit. ENSPIRE chatted with Ortega about her film.

### **What was your inspiration behind this film?**

Another Love Story is very dear to my heart. This movie is based on how my best friend/sister was, unfortunately, killed. I knew that domestic abuse was a big social problem. Still, I didn't realize how big it was until I started doing my own research and noticed how we don't really have laws in place to protect the victims of domestic abuse because the law doesn't want to get involved in husband-and-wife relationships or couples of any sexual orientation.

I dream of building a foundation where we can start a partition to change the laws in place. To use the foundation to rehabilitate people that are survivors of domestic abuse. Domestic Abuse victims suffer from PTSD, similar to soldiers that have fought in a war. Playing the role of Miriam Ramos was very challenging because when I started writing the outline for 'Another Love Story,' it was my way of dealing with the loss of my loved one.



Living the life of Miriam Ramos and feeling how much she loved Mark and how she desired to heal him from his demon was heavy to carry. But overall, playing Miriam brought me closure and purpose because it opened the door to real conversations with different women and men about their stories. Just in my crew, we had four survivors of domestic abuse who were open to sharing their personal stories with me.

### **What was it like producing and starring in this film?**

Producing is difficult and very technical compared to acting. It was very difficult to remove the producing hat and go through makeup and hair and get ready to live the life of the character I was playing. When I am producing, I get in when my crew gets in, and I am usually one of the last people to go home. I believe that if more actors saw what happens before they get to the set, they would love and appreciate the crew more because they work so hard. I am very great full to my team for being very hands-on.

### **What was the biggest challenge with creating this project?**

Another Love Story took me on a very emotional journey. Most films are shot out of sequence. One moment I am happy, the next I am crying, after that making love, and after that, sad again. Another Love Story is a domestic abuse film, and it was a very physical film. So it was like a roller coaster of emotions and sensations. At the end of every shoot day, I would play some good music to clean my energy.

### **Why is mental health such an important factor in this film?**

I speak to a licensed therapist, and it is important to do so because sometimes we don't fully heal or deal with childhood traumas or past relationships. Because life just keeps moving, and I was raised that we need to get up when something terrible happens and keep on moving. For the record, I believe we need to get up and move on, but only after we self-assess how a particular experience changed us or affected us.

Hurt people, hurt people, and everything we are and do is connected to our mental health. I live in Los Angeles, and people are always saying that the homelessness issue is fully connected to the lack of housing, and I don't fully agree. The homelessness problem in Los Angeles is conned to mental health and drug abuse. We don't have mental hospitals in Los Angeles where people with mental problems can be treated. Mental health is connected to everything, including Domestic Abuse from the abuser to the victim.

### **What is one thing you hope viewers take away after watching it?**

I pray that we can open someone's eyes before it is too late and that we, as a society, create new laws to protect the victims of domestic abuse and punish the abuser more severely.

Ortega recently also published her first Graphic Novel, "[The Curse of The Flower](#)", based on the legend of Anacaona. The novel is set to become a short film that fans can expect to see in 2023.

<https://enspiremag.com/2022/11/rising-actress-isadora-ortega-stars-in-another-love-story/>





## **Empowerment Series: Dominican Venezuelan Actress, Isadora Ortega Shares “Another Love Story,” Abusive Relationships and Mental Health**

One of the things, I most enjoy about doing this podcast, writing, and interviewing is how much I learn in the process. Having the ability to share lessons continues to be a gift that fills me with gratitude.

AW does not shy away from the strong subject matter. We believe difficult conversations that shed light on serious topics are essential. One of the best ways to help one another is to openly talk about the hard stuff, too.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that on a normal day, over 20,000 telephone [calls](#) from all over the US come through to the domestic violence hotline. More than 10,000,00 women and men are abused by an intimate partner in a single year. We can't keep ignoring the numbers, this is a huge issue for society. This was a difficult dialogue due to its serious nature but necessary.

In the film, *Another Love Story*, the character, Miriam, (played by Isadora [Ortega](#)) suffers domestic abuse at the hands of her partner, Marc. The man walks into her life, as a knight and shining armor until he becomes a monster. During our conversation, we covered emotional and physical abuse, mental health, toxicity, and red flags in relationships. The talented Latina also shares the personal experience that inspired her to do the movie. The [Dominican](#) Venezuelan Actress does not shy away from speaking her truth, as she shared her thoughts on what it means to be part of this film. The Executive Producer takes us on the journey of *Miriam Ramos*. A woman who falls in love with a man that is successful, charming, passionate, and extremely generous. The outpouring of love from the perfect partner is what most girls would dream of until she sees his dark side.

*Another Love Story* is an award-winning film that has won accolades for Best Director, Brandon Morson, and Best Actress, Isadora Ortega at the 2021 New York International Film Awards. The title was also selected as Best Feature Film at the 2022 Gold Movie Awards.

AW had the opportunity to sit with Isadora for a powerful conversation to bring awareness to the troubling reality.

**Another Love Story deals with a tough topic. We see, how its lead character, Miriam, falls head over heels for Marc. He seems like the perfect man until he shows a dark side. His anger turns to rage, triggering repeated episodes of emotional and physical abuse. This is a powerful story. I believe abuse happens more often than we realize. Why was it important to tell this story?** The story is based on true events. My childhood best friend was killed 5-6 years ago. Many pieces of the film resemble her story, it was important to bring light to it. Sadly, he took her life and then his own.

When it happened, I began to research and realized how big of a social issue this is but not getting enough attention. In public, the perfect couple then behind closed doors total chaos. I have family members that reached out to say, "This happened to me." We see these situations and assume the person can leave at any time. It isn't always that simple because there is a lot of manipulation and mental abuse. People can experience feelings of unworthiness. If they leave, no one else will love them, and there is also, shame behind the ordeal.

I wanted to highlight the problem, as well as, let people know, you can escape domestic abuse and live your life. The moment a decision is made to leave, you are in real danger. Many agencies have resources available to help those that need them.

**Possessive, controlling, suggesting immediate introduction to friends and family circle, the overwhelming outpouring of love, alienation from your support network, and lavish gifts that all take place in a short span of time. In my opinion, these can be red flags but we don't always see things for what they are, instead, we prefer to see what we want. Any other warning signs we should look for in an abuser?** We did a screening, where I was approached about what took place with our male lead's character. Audience members connected with the red flags, and the story was familiar. Marc's character infiltrated himself so deep into her life that no one else mattered, he became the center of her universe. Abuse happens in our circle, so it's important to see the signs.

**Would you agree that Marc's character used sex as a weapon of passion, as a tool for control.** Sex is one the most powerful drugs there is! Feelings are involved, chemistry is there which can blur the lines for anyone not clear on who they are and what they deserve. "I hit you then we have sex. I speak to you like trash then we have sex." It may feel like sex can alleviate anything which covers things up. But ask yourself, "Would someone that truly loves hurt you?"

I worked with a Private Investigator who works with people that have experienced abuse.

Possible red flags to look for in a toxic relationship would include:

- If the romantic partner is trying to block your social media.
- Create chaos that keeps you away from your friends and family. Alienating you for those that support you emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.
- Keeping you from having a means of transportation, so you don't have the means to get around on your own.
- Speaking down to you. He tells may use phrases like "Who is going to love you more than me? You cannot do better than me."

These all fall under domestic abuse, the physical aspect of the torment would be domestic violence and it happens mostly to women but men, too.



I can't stress how critical it is to understand that survivors of this type of violence, suffer similar trauma as people who go to war because their brain is damaged in the same way. It has devastating consequences and police don't want to get involved, unfortunately.

**When you feel like you are not enough, it affects every aspect of your life. Do you believe this strongly ties into being a victim of abuse?** This goes deeper than we realize. How we see ourselves, shapes our experiences. If I come out of a toxic relationship, my job is to find counsel, and speak to someone to find out the "Why?" Knowing yourself helps do things differently in the next relationship. I think we should all get some therapy, as human beings.

**Did you learn anything after working on this project?** Laws are not well structured when it comes to domestic abuse. In fact, they are flawed, old, and not sufficiently enforced to protect anyone. Even a restraining order does not have a lot of protection. Abusers don't face real consequences. They receive a slap on the wrist and use a revolving door, to continue the abuse. In one of those instances, they are out, abusers kill their victims. There is a hotline for victims but there should be much more help available. Realistically, it has become worse after the pandemic, victims became prisoners in their own homes.

**In the final scene, Mimi's friend says to her "This is not your fault." What did she mean and why did she say it to the victim?** An abuser, a narcissist, will convince their victim that anything they do or the shortcomings they have is their fault. If they cheat, hit you, or find any flaw in their character – it becomes your fault. You have to know it is not – it's them.

**We like to end interviews with advice, quote, or affirmation to help our readers. What advice do you have for women who may be in a similar predicament as Miriam?** It could be you or me. This can happen to any one of us depending on our mental state. Nurture your spirit with positive, good energy to help you recognize that you are not deserving of harm.

When you know who you are and what you deserve you don't allow anyone to hurt you. Men and women need to ask themselves about their mental health. If you see monsters everywhere, there are ways to find help. There is no shame in getting help. Life is hard, and asking for help is not something to be ashamed of. We all need a little help, sometimes.

National Domestic Violence [Hotline](#), Telephone: 1-800-799-7233

You can find out more about Isadora by visiting Instagram [@lablacklatina](#). The film, *Another Love Story* on iTunes, Amazon, Direct TV, Sling, Vudu, Google Play, and YouTube Films.

Watch the full interview with Isadora on the [AW YouTube](#) channel or listen to the *AW Confidential Podcast* found on [Spotify](#), Apple Podcast, Anchor, and everywhere you find your podcasts.

*This interview has been condensed for clarity.\**

<https://awakened-woman.com/2022/09/08/empowerment-series-dominican-venezuelan-actress-isadora-ortega-shares-another-love-story-abusive-relationships-and-mental-health/>



## We chat to Isadora Ortega, executive producer and star of *Another Love Story*

If you've not already heard of Dominican/Venezuelan actress, Isadora Ortega, you should keep your eyes peeled because she's rising up in the entertainment industry as a woman to watch. Already making strides as a triple threat, Isadora has made herself known as an award winning actress, producer and writer.

Isadora has not only executive produced projects but she also self-stars in her award-winning film drama, *Another Love Story*.

In *Another Love Story*, Isadora plays budding novelist Miriam Ramos, a woman fresh out of a toxic relationship, who quickly finds herself in a dark place, desperately seeking to live a lavish life and to be romantically in love. The film has gone on to win multiple awards ahead of its release in July, including **Best Director**, (Brandon Morson) and **Best Actress** (Isadora Ortega) at the **2021 New York Int Film Awards**, and most recently selected as **Best Feature Film** at the **2022 Gold Movie Awards**. Speaking to Isadora and her work on *Another Love Story* with its dark look at abusive relationships seems appropriate, given that October is Domestic Abuse awareness month and that the film touches on some of these themes.

### **You're somewhat of a triple threat, actor/producer/writer - how do you have time to do all three?**

That is a very good question because, honestly, I don't know. I have multiple planners, and I have to keep myself very organised from the moment I wake up until bedtime. I give myself enough time in the morning to pray and meditate, and in the evening, I do the same.

Rest and nutrition are very important because I put my body and mind through a lot every day.

### **Tell us a little about you as well as the self-funded film you've been involved in called *Another Love Story* (where you're both an executive producer and a star). What was that process like?**

Producing is difficult and very technical compared to acting. It was very difficult to remove the producing hat and go through makeup and hair to get ready to live the life of the character I was playing.

When I am producing, I get in when my crew gets in, and I am usually one of the last people to go home. I do believe that if more actors saw what happens before they get to set, they would have more love and appreciation for the crew because they work hard. I am very grateful to my team because they have been very hands-on.

### **How has mental health affected or touched your own career, and do you feel enough light is shone on mental health in the acting industry?**

I speak to a licensed therapist, which I find so important to do because sometimes we don't fully heal or deal with childhood traumas or past relationships.

Life keeps moving, and I was taught growing up that we needed to get up when something bad happens and keep on moving. For the record, I do believe that we need to get up and move on, but only after we do a self-assessment on how a particular experience changed or affected us.

I live in Los Angeles, and people are always saying that the issue of homelessness is fully connected to the lack of housing, and I don't fully agree. The homelessness problem in Los Angeles is connected to mental health and drug abuse. We don't have mental hospitals in Los Angeles where people with mental problems can be treated. Mental health is connected to everything, including domestic abuse from the abuser to the victim.



**As a Dominican and Venezuelan actress of Haitian and Cuban descent, is there enough diversity in acting and roles out there that showcase people with multicultural backgrounds and heritage?**  
No, just no.

**I'm so intrigued about your writing career (another string to the bow!). What can you tell me about your graphic novel, *The Curse of the Flower*?**

"The Curse of the Flower" / "La Maldición De La Flor" is based on the legend of Anacaona. The novel follows the leader of her tribe, Anacaona, as her people's lives are turned around by conquistadores, who too willingly took more than was offered. To protect her people, Anacaona's rage quickly evolved in a way no one saw coming, developing into a night where everything was set into motion so she could visit our world...time is an interesting thing; sometimes, it heals you and sometimes allows your rage to grow. But Anacaona's legacy will not be silenced, only impact our world. It was so great to see my novel praised by fans, and happy to share we are currently in pre-production on the short film, to be directed by Oscar-nominated director David Massi and expected to make its rounds in the festival circuit soon to follow its release.

**What other women do you admire/take inspiration from?**

My grandmother, my mother, Shonda Rhimes, Beyoncé, and Maya Angelou, to name a few.



**What's next for you now that *Another Love Story* has officially been released?**

I have a Christmas movie in post-production. I am the executive producer of "*Hope Street Holiday*," co-writer with Brandon Morson, and I play the role of Galia Garcia, aka Lia Garcia. Lia loses her way when her mom and best friend pass. She's living the life she thought she always wanted, but now it feels empty and meaningless. The holidays are the best time for her to go back home, and she finds herself and her passion around family while finding the real meaning of life and love.

We have a beautiful cast; they are all very talented. Three beautiful and talented Afro-Latina actresses play my aunts. I felt at home with this amazing cast. So many people are going to be able to relate to the characters in this film.

<https://www.thecwordmag.co.uk/women-in-film/we-chat-to-isadora-ortega-executive-producer-and-star-of-another-love-story>



# Isadora Ortega & Hope Street Holiday

Learn More About Isadora Ortega And Her Next Holiday Season's Feel-Good Holiday Film. Out Today December 6th!

MY NAME IS ISADORA ORTEGA, AND I AM A WRITER, PRODUCER AND ACTRESS THAT CAN BE BEST RECOGNIZED FOR MY AWARD-WINNING FILM, *ANOTHER LOVE STORY*.

Where do you find your voice when creating and what do you want to bring to people with your art?

**I find my voice all around me.** I like to write about social topics, life lessons, and the world that I want to see on tv.

What's the moment you realized you were doing something good and great with your art?

The moment we finish screening one of our films, and someone walks up to us and lets us know that **they can relate to so many moments of the film.**

What's the biggest challenge you've had to overcome to be where you are today?

**My own self-doubts sometimes.** Our mind can be our worse enemy if we don't take control of our thoughts.

Representation in the entertainment industry is nothing but important and extremely needed. Why is it important to you and what do you want to achieve with your projects?

Diversity is important because it is a **reflection of what the world really looks like.** Cast in film and tv shows should represent what the world looks like. This should not only be limited to the cast but also the crew working in these films and tv shows.



Two clear examples are **"In the Heights"** and **"Encanto"**, so many people were upset because the **"In the Heights"** cast didn't look like the people of Washington Heights, which has a large population of Dominicans — Washington Heights is called Little Dominican Republic.

Now let's take a look at **"Encanto."** So many people and kids could see themselves in this movie's characters. Representation matters because we can see people who look like us playing different roles and positions in life.



I hope that through all my projects, **I can help to push the narrative on proper representation, to show those who feel unseen what it is like to finally feel included.**

Most recently, in my film **Hope Street Holiday**, my character Galia Garcia returns home. Being of Afro-Latina background, she is welcomed home with a whole lot of tradition and three crazy Afro-Latina aunts. I am so proud to showcase this representation within my films and cast actors who truly come from these backgrounds to properly portray the roles.

Tell us more about **Hope Street Holiday**! What is it about & how was it born?  
**Hope Street Holiday is this holiday season's feel-good holiday film.**



The film follows Galia García, a successful Afro-Latina attorney in Los Angeles who returns to her small hometown after getting dumped days before Christmas. She realized her life has been lacking meaningful relationships since losing her mother and best friend. With the help of a 5-year-old orphan, her three crazy Aunts, and this small town's magic, Lia heals from her past trauma. Ultimately, she'll rediscover her self-worth and the true meaning of family and falls in love all over again with an old friend.

**Hope Street was inspired by Brandon Morson and my aunts.** When I came on board after reading the initial storyline, we opted to keep the same story, changed the family's background, and added the **culture of Dominican family because that story had never been told before.**

What do holiday movies mean to you and what's the special thing you wanted to bring to people when creating one?

**Christmas movies mean family, friends and food because that's what Christmas mean to me.** The importance of family and that no matter how many curve balls life throws at you, you can always count on family to find your way to the essence of who you are.

What's one piece of advice you could tell the readers that could impact their lives?

***Get out of your own way and live your life unapologetically you***

What are your top 3 favorite holiday movies?

Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey

The Christmas Chronicles

Violent Night

<https://www.thefamehackers.com/blog/b/hope-street-holiday>



# Authority Magazine

## Inspirational Women In Hollywood: How Isadora Ortega Is Helping To Shake Up The Entertainment Industry

**Network...I am not saying party; I am saying real networking. Build your relationships with the film schools and audition for thesis films. They are the producers, directors, and writers of tomorrow.**

**As** a part of our series about *Inspirational Women In Hollywood*, I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing Isadora Ortega.

*Haitian/Cuban actress Isadora Ortega is rising up in the entertainment industry as one to watch. Already making strides as a triple threat, Isadora*

*has made waves as an award-winning actress, producer and writer.*

*After falling deep in love with the art by watching telenovelas with her mom, Isadora knew at an early age that she wanted to take part in a career that was diverse in the art of expressionism. While living in New York, acting was at her fingertips and Isadora went on to study the art, including voice over, improv and body movement at the Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, as well as at Susan Batson Studios. She soon went on to appear in various Off-Broadway shows such as “Eating Out” and host TV shows such as “Cook up” On Tempo. After a successful run in New York building her brand as an Afro Latina artist, Isadora knew her next move would be pivotal to her career. Once relocating to Los Angeles, Isadora didn’t waste time getting into the groove of things and quickly went on to produce and star in several projects, including web series, short films and shows such as “Laff Mob” on Tru TV, while growing her social media presence.*

*Isadora can next be seen executive producing and starring in award winning film, Another Love Story. Isadora plays budding novelist Miriam Ramos, a women fresh out of a toxic relationship, who quickly finds herself in a dark place, desperately seeking to live a lavish life and to be romantically in love. Starting to believe that she is the problem, the hurdles of life quickly weigh on her until she meets and falls deeply in love with the man of her dreams — That is, until her new found love reveals itself to be a tragic nightmare not even her closest friends could see coming. After making its way through the festival circuit, the film has gone on to win multiple awards ahead of its official July 29th release, including Best Director, Brandon Morson, and Best Actress, Isadora Ortega, at the 2021 New York Int Film Awards and most recently selected as Best Feature Film at the 2022 Gold Movie Awards.*



*Off screen, Isadora can best be recognized as an author, most recently publishing her first Graphic Novel called “The Curse of the flower”//”La Maldicion De La Flor” based on the legend of Anacaona. The novel follows leader of her tribe, Anacaona, as her people’s lives are turned around by conquistadores, who too willingly took more than was offered. In defense to protect her people, Anacaona’s rage quickly developed in a way no one saw coming – a night where everything was set into motion so she could visit our world...time is an interesting thing, sometimes it heals you and sometimes allows your rage to grow. But Anacaona’s legacy will not be silenced, only impact our world. Isadora’s hit novel was met with praise and fans can soon see the short film come to life and make its rounds in the festival circuit in 2023.*

**Thank you so much for doing this with us! Our readers would love to get to know you a bit better. Can you tell us the story of how you grew up?**

**I** was born in Caracas, Venezuela, to Dominican parents. I was raised by a single mother who worked hard every day to give me the best education and life she could afford. My father was always in the picture, even if it was not physically. I grew up around strong women, from my mom to my grandmother. I always understood clearly what it meant to work with discipline, even when you don’t feel like it.

**Can you share a story with us about what brought you to this specific career path?**

I see acting as the freedom to express all your personas that would otherwise be judged by society. There’s no judgment in acting, and you get to use so many parts of yourself. Acting is so healing to me because we can always bring parts of us into every role. I have been able to understand more about domestic abuse victims by playing one because understanding the needs and wants of Miriam helped me understand why so many people feel trapped. I fell in love with acting by watching Telenovelas with my mom. I loved how one person can transform themselves from the inside out and live the lives of so many.

**Can you tell us the most interesting story that happened to you since you began your career?**

I was told that I wouldn’t be able to play a role of a Latina because Hollywood doesn’t understand what an Afro Latina is... I just smiled and kept training because we should never allow people to project their limitations on us.

**It has been said that our mistakes can be our greatest teachers. Can you share a story about the funniest mistake you made when you were first starting? Can you tell us what lesson you learned from that?**

Well, I was doing a self-tape for a Christmas film, and I started the taping and messed up my first line. Like a proud New Yorker, I said “F\*\*\*”. When I was done with my audition, to my belief, I did well with editing my slate and scenes! Unfortunately, I forgot to edit the “F\*\*\*” out of the audition, and yes submitted the audition with my fabulous F-bomb. I got a callback directly to a producer session, to my surprise. The producers, writers, and casting brought it up after the session and mentioned they thought it was funny. The moral of the story is triple check your auditions and give yourself some grace because we are not perfect.

Honestly, nothing specific comes to mind, but I will say that all the mistakes that I have made, whether they were funny, reckless, or just stupid, helped shape the woman I am today. Making mistakes is part of living life, and the silver lining is learning to make new types of mistakes tomorrow, not the same.

**None of us are able to achieve success without some help along the way. Is there a particular person who you are grateful towards who helped get you to where you are? Can you share a story about that?**

My mom, she’s has always believed in me and prayed for me. She’s always praying for that big contract. She paid for classes, for pictures, bought clothes for events, and gave me money to help me pay my rent when I couldn’t. She doesn’t understand the world of acting, but she just knows that that’s what I was born to do. She’s my biggest fan.

**You have been blessed with great success in a career path that can be challenging. Do you have any words of advice for others who may want to embark on this career path but seem daunted by the prospect of failure?**

Network...I am not saying party; I am saying real networking. Build your relationships with the film schools and audition for thesis films. They are the producers, directors, and writers of tomorrow. Don't take "No" personally, and I know it is easier said than done, but it is true. We give a piece of ourselves to all these auditions and are disappointed but just keep booking the room (when casting keeps bringing you back, it means you are doing something right, and that's booking the room.) We can fail at so many things in life that if I fail, let it be at something that I love and am passionate about. Even when I have challenging dates, I know that this is what I want to do for the rest of my life. Also, build your circle because this career can be lonely.

**What drives you to get up every day and work in TV and Film? What change do you want to see in the industry going forward?**

I want to do this for the rest of my life because I am very passionate about it, and I am working on my end to add the diversity to the films and content that I produce that I would like to see in the industry. I honestly want Afro Latinos to be more part of the conversation regarding diversity because when the "Latino diversity" conversation is being held in Hollywood, I don't believe they are talking about Afro-Latino actors and actresses that look and sound like me.

**You have such impressive work. What are some of the most interesting or exciting projects you are working on now? Where do you see yourself heading from here?**

Another Love Story is the Domestic abuse film I produced last year and is set to release this July 19, 2022. This is a passion project that is very dear to my heart. This movie is based on how my best friend/sister was killed. I knew that domestic abuse was a big social problem, but I didn't realize how big it was until I started doing my own research. We don't really have laws in place to protect the victims of domestic abuse because the law doesn't want to get involved with a husband and wife's relationship or couples of any sexual orientation.

I am also the executive producer of "Hope Street Holiday" which I co-wrote with Brandon Morson. I play the role of Galia Garcia, aka Lia Garcia. Lia loses her way when her mom and best friend pass. She's living the life that she thought she always wanted, but now it feels empty and meaningless. The holidays are the best time for her to return home, and she finds herself and her passion around family while finding the real meaning of life and love. We have a beautiful and very talented cast. My "aunties" are played by three beautiful and talented Afro Latina actresses. I felt at home! I know so many people are going to be able to relate to the characters in this film.

**We are very interested in looking at diversity in the entertainment industry. Can you share a few reasons with our readers why you think it's important to have diversity represented in film and television? How can that potentially affect our culture and our youth growing up today?**

Diversity is important because it is a reflection of what the world really looks like. Cast in film and tv shows should represent what the world looks like. This should not only be limited to the cast but also the crew working in these films and tv shows. Two clear examples are "In the Heights" and "Encanto," so many people were upset because the "In the Heights" cast didn't look like the people of Washington Heights, which has a big population of Dominicans — Washington Heights is called Little Dominican Republic. Now let's take a look at "Encanto." So many people and kids could see themselves in this movie's characters. Representation matters because we can see people who look like us playing different roles and positions in life.

**What are your "3 things I wish someone told me when I first started?"**

- That I am my only competition
- To only be concerned with the things I can control, and that's my training.
- Be yourself



**Can you share with our readers any self-care routines, practices, or treatments that you do to help your body, mind, or heart to thrive? Please share a story for each one if you can.**

I start my morning with some prayers, followed by affirmations. In my car, I listen to some praise music. At night I pray, and I sleep with meditation sounds. I burn sage and palo santo every other day, lol. Working out is part of my wellness, and I love going to the spa when time permits.

**Can you please give us your favorite “Life Lesson Quote”?**

“Dreams do not come true just because you dream them. It’s hard work that makes things happen. It’s hard work that creates change.” — Shonda Rhimes

&

“The real heroes are those who rebuild their lives using adversity as a stepping stone to greatness in the midst of the chaos life has thrown at them.” — Nikki Rowe. Just keep moving; everything that is not going your way is just happening for a season.

**You are a person of huge influence. If you could inspire a movement that would bring the most amount of good to the most amount of people, what would that be?**

I dream of building a Domestic Abuse foundation where we can start a partition to change the laws in place. To use the foundation to rehabilitate people that are survivors of domestic abuse because Domestic Abuse victims suffer from PTSD as a soldier that fought in a war.

**Is there a person in the world whom you would love to have lunch with, and why? Maybe we can tag them and see what happens!**

Shonda Rhimes would be my person. She’s a showrunner, creator, writer, and executive producer. I would love to hear her process and how you put a writing room together. Where her inspiration comes from?

**Are you on social media? How can our readers follow you online?**

Instagram and Facebook @lablacklatina

**This was so informative, thank you so much! We wish you continued success!**

<https://medium.com/authority-magazine/inspirational-women-in-hollywood-how-isadora-ortega-is-helping-to-shake-up-the-entertainment-be90b9daa03f>

## RADIO & PODCASTS



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## #12 Breaking Bad Habits and Manifesting Your Best Love Story with ISADORA ORTEGA

[The Routine Project Podcast](#)

Do you ever think about your intimate relationships and wonder how they are really affecting your life? What about those times in your career where you felt lost, yet knew you were on the right track?

Well, if you are pondering those questions - you're in luck because I've got a conversation with Isadora Ortega on the Routine Project podcast that I think will really help you answer them! Here is our latest episode of the podcast this week filled with inspiration, industry experience and relationship advice from Isadora, with hopes that you're able to walk away from this conversation feeling like you've got a little more "oomph" to get things going in the right direction.

Follow Isadora Ortega (here) to be sure to check out all of her latest work, including her new film Another Love Story (here) - which we highly recommend you watch!

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/12-breaking-bad-habits-and-manifesting-your-best-love/id1622427456?i=1000571092627>

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## Actress, Producer, Writer, Isadora Ortega Shares “Another Love Story” of an Abusive Relationship.

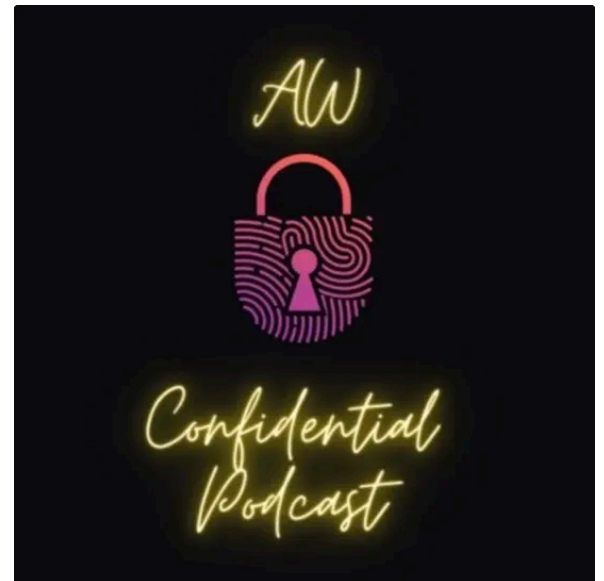
[AW Confidential: Sharing stories that help us connect and learn from different perspectives.](#)

Dominican/Venezuelan Actress, Producer, and Writer, Isadora Ortega doesn't shy away from difficult subjects. In her recent film, Executive Producer and Leading Actress take us along on the journey of Miriam Ramos, a woman who falls in love with a successful, charming, passionate, and generous man who appears to be the perfect man but also, has a dark side.

The award-winning film, "Another Love Story" has won Best Director, Brandon Morson, and Best Actress, Isadora Ortega, at the 2021 New York Int Film Awards and was selected as Best Feature Film at the 2022 Gold Movie Awards.

AW had the opportunity to interview Isadora. Watch as we tackle abusive and toxic relationships and mental health, as seen in “Another Love Story.”

You can find out more on Isadora by visiting Instagram @lablacklatina



<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/actress-producer-writer-isadora-ortega-shares-another/id1604942108?i=1000578085671>



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